변병준

1995년 데뷔 주로 서정성 짙은 단편만화를 그리며 발표하는 만화마다 굵직한 상을 수상하는 만화계의 기대주이다 모든 배경을 직접 찍은 사진을 가지고 작업한다는 그는 작가주의적 설정과 재능을 동시에 지니고 있는 드문 젊은 작가이다 2001년 일본에서 유학하며 일본의 유수한 출판사인 쇼각칸(小學館)의 신인공모에 당선 2003년 고단샤(講談社)의 공모전에서 장려상을 수상 2003년 프랑스 앙굴렘 국에 만화전 초청 등 해외에서도 그의 작가주의를 인정하고 있다 매우아의 감각적인 단편 소설을 만화화한 〈프린세스 안나〉는 소설적인 플롯과 수준높은 작화가 특징인 그의 작품세계를 반영하는 수작이다 2003년 출간된 〈달러라 봉구야!〉는 도심의 후문 거울을 녹이는 따뜻한 남서풍과도 같은 작품으로 문화관광부 우수혜작 지원작으로 선정되었다

약력

1985년 12월 루팽티서른 만화대상 우수상 〈어느 이름날의 코메디〉 | 1997년 동아LG 만화페스티벌 극화부문 장려상 〈어느 섬마을 이야기〉 | 1998년 출판만화대상 신인상 수상 〈갓서락〉
2000년 상반기 오늘의 우리만화 선정 〈프린세스 안나〉 | 2000년 11월 小學館 '빅코믹 스피리츠 월간 신인만화대상' 장려상 수상 (신길동 2002) | 2003년 1월 앙굴렘 국제 만화전 '한국만화 특별전' 참가
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http //byungjun com

이 책은 서울애니메이션센터의 지원을 받아 제작하였습니다

Seoul Foundation for Arts and Culture Publication Support Awarded

Lyon Byungjoon Short Stories

undecided

The message of spring arriving at Seoul Station's winter

The manhwa that opened up the spring of 2004: Run, Bong-Gu, Run

Story and Art by Pyun Byungjoon

Pyun Byungjoon's manhwa is an aesthetic monochrome that does not allow even the smallest amount of despair!

Manhwaga Kim Hyunghae

This book is a feast of several different stories that manhwaga Pyun Byungjoon can offer.

Manhwa Researcher Kim Nakho

undecided

scanner: bukowawa

Proofreader: riseabove77

Translator: skyam1030

Editor: saga

Qcer: riseabove77

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美貞

未定

To my parents, whom I love.

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[*] In Korean, Meejung may be a girl's name or also mean "undecided."

|Introduction|

Pyun Byungjoon's manhwa is an aesthetic monochrome that does not allow even the smallest amount of despair! The texture of the tough cement surface and the blue-toned asphalt that is the stage for his techno-police fantasy completely rejects the call of any other perception.

Our viewpoints merely follow those blue lines that he set out for us and stop in front of the gaze of a pale girl that seems to have sucked in the every meaning of the world.

Manhwaga Kim Hyungbae

|Publisher's Note|

The Seoul Animation Center has continually made the greatest efforts to increase the added value of Korean Manhwa/Animation and strengthening its international competitiveness since 1999 by hosting the Seoul Creative Manhwa/Animation Publication Support. This publication support, which supported creative manhwa and short animations as its main targets, endeavors to vitalize the manhwa/animation creative market by uncovering novel young writers and cover not only their production costs but support the overall propagation of their works.

The public subscriptions of published manhwa are operated under the divisions of middle-length and long picture stories, cartoons, and short stories, and distinguished works are also supported of the publication of their book forms. In this resolve, we have come to publish these two works: Pyun Byungjoon's Undecided and Kim Sungjoon's Cosmos Flower, which are the distinguished works among the divisions of middle-length and long picture stories. We wish that these two works, which have combined artistry and popularity, are a chance for the readers to enjoy accomplished creative manhwa, and hope that they bring new and fresh vitality to the world of Korean manhwa.

Additionally, our center will expand our continual support ventures to allow manhwa/animation to lead the way of the 21st century culture enterprise as a mass media that is the enjoyment of all.

Seoul Animation Center

In the dim streets,
Where the sunlight becomes tattered,
I watch
As I float like dust.

The shadows of my longing,
Being trampled and trampled,
Getting up again.
The houses and streets and trees
Shaking silently,
Making a path for my cries
Towards the world.

From Choi Seungja's Poem
"Useless Questions"

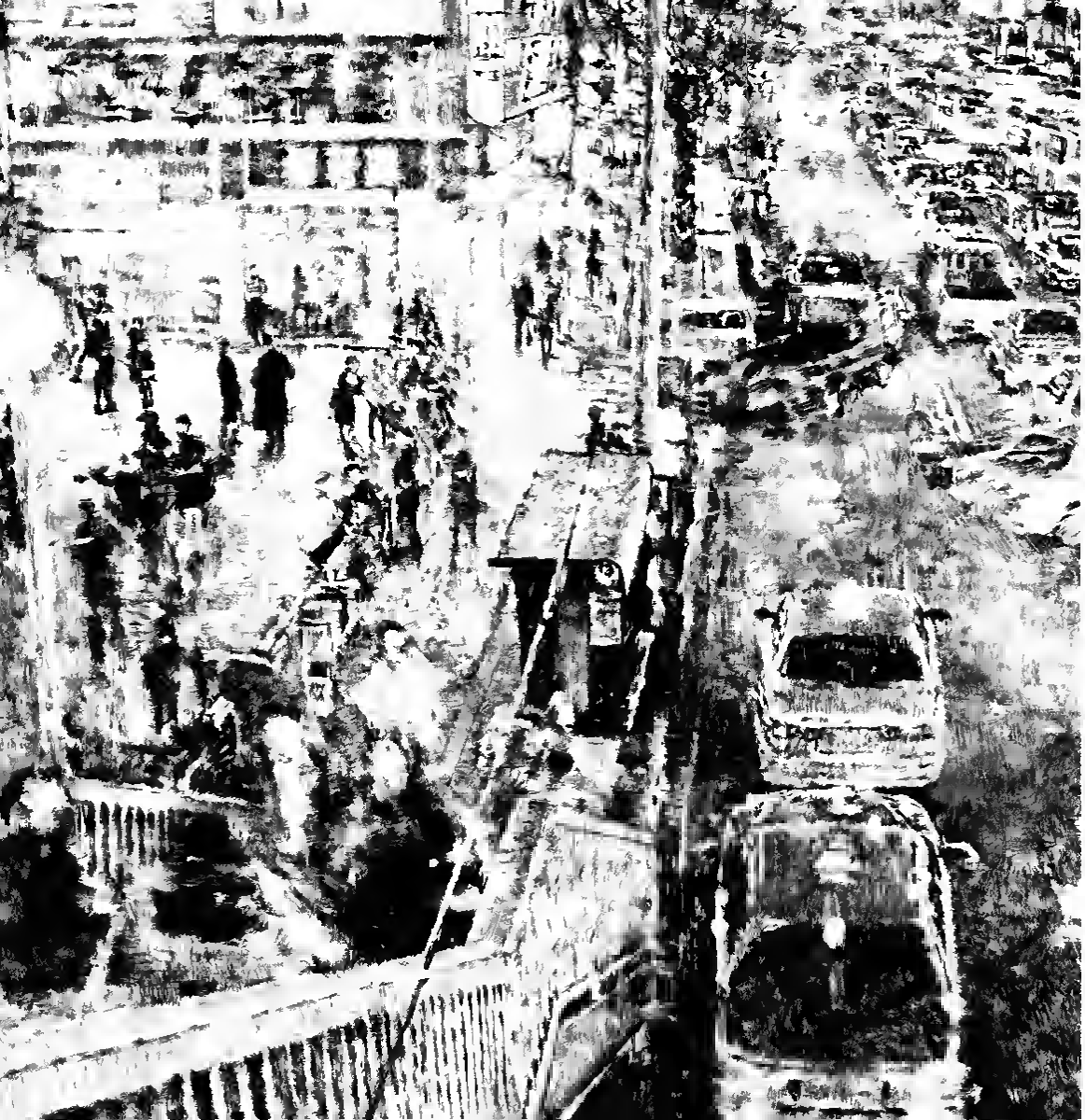
March 2003
Quarterly Manhwa publication
Seoul Animation Center
New Manhwa

The heavy steps
At the end of a difficult day...

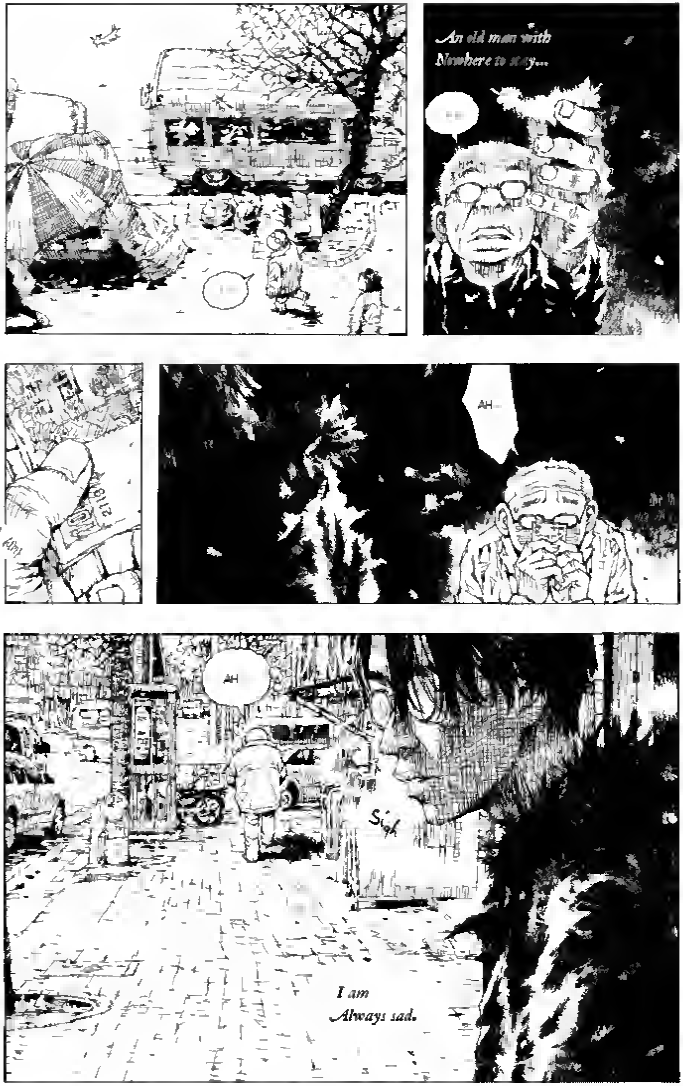
Worn-out couples.
Love is far away from them.

It is always a tired night
And tomorrow is far away.

But they will all
Endure well.
vrhhhh
They endure the day
With heavy steps,
But they will all
Survive well.



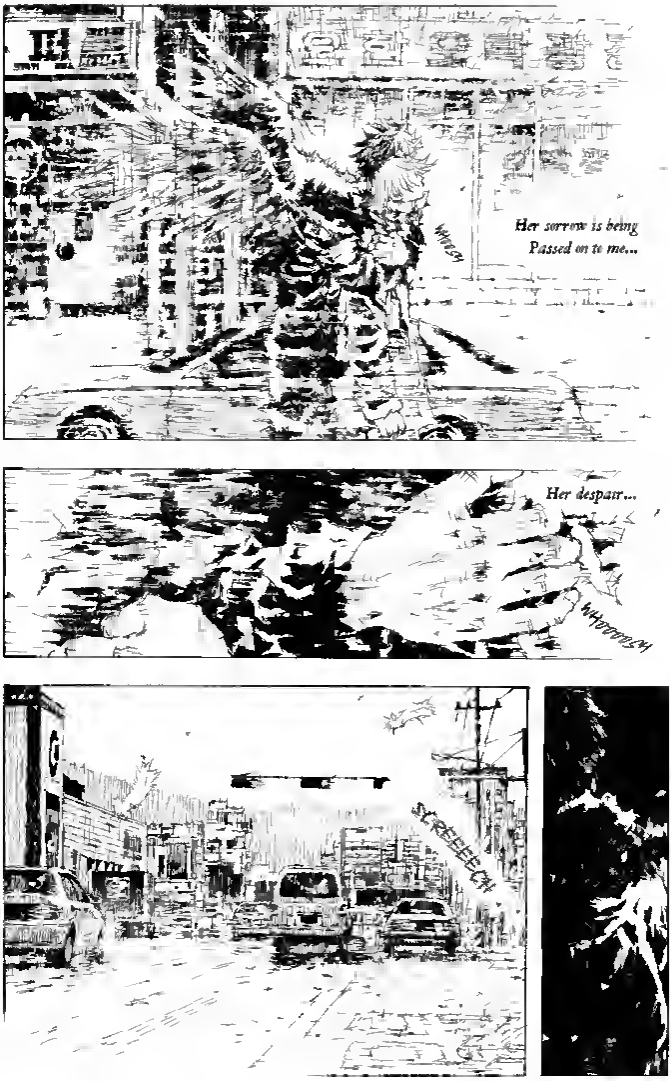
I came to this world,
Following sorrow.

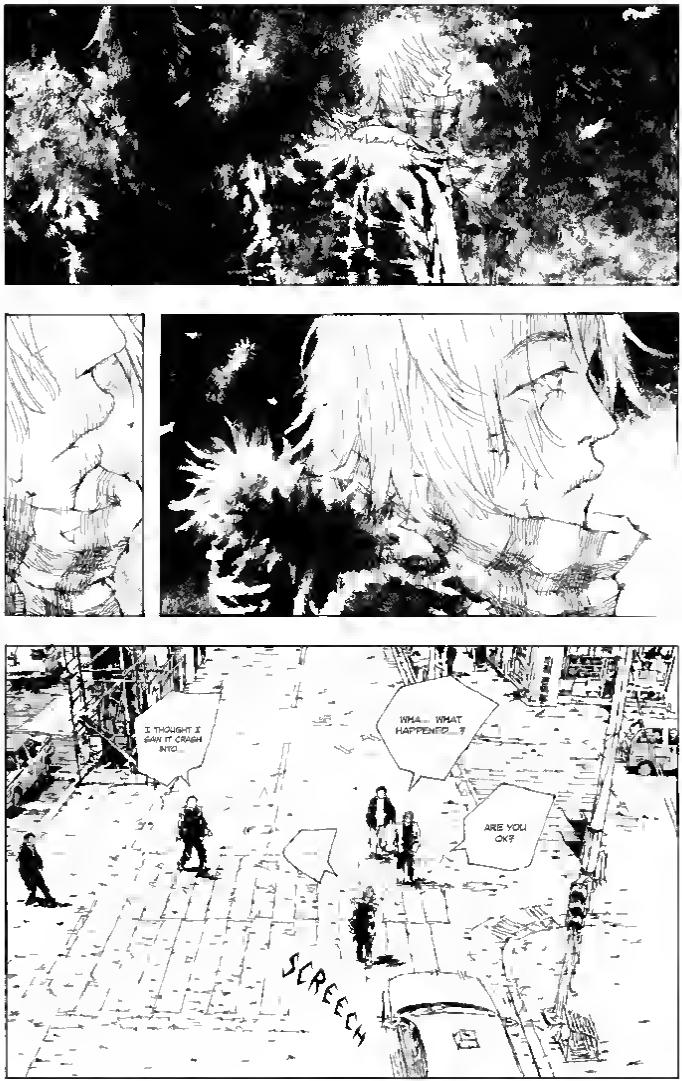

An old man with
Nowhere to stay...
AH...
AH...
Sigh
I am
Always sad.

I was always depressed,
And I was always alone.
No one understood
My sorrow.

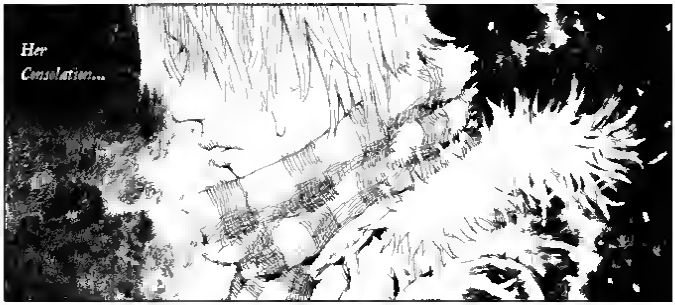
The smell of this place
Resembles mine.
A sad and painful smell.

I met her.
The sorrow and pain
That I have been used to
For a long time...


Her sorrow is being
Passed on to me...
Her despair...
SCREECH


I THOUGHT I SAW IT CRASH INTO...
WHA... WHAT HAPPENED...?
ARE YOU OK?
SCREECH

I THOUGHT IT CRASHED INTO HER. BUT I GUESS I JUMPED!
ARE YOU OK MISS ?
LOOK AROUND CAREFULLY WHEN YOU CROSS THE STREET. YOU ALMOST
Her love...

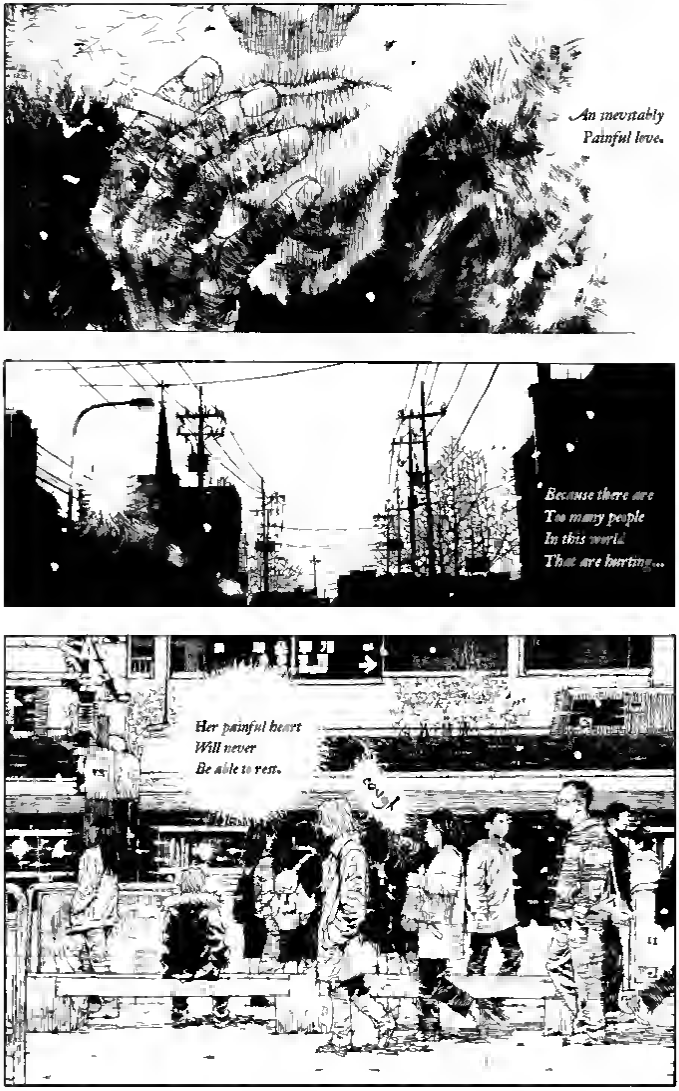

Her Consolation...

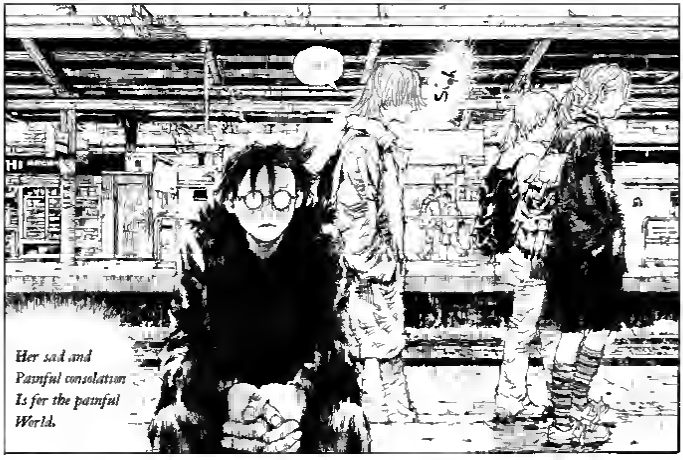
The first mistake,
Or rather, revolt,
I committed here.

cough
Shower

Shower
She will hurt
While she is alive.

A love agony...
A love pain.


An inevitably
Painful love.
Because there are
Too many people
In this world
That are hurting...
Her painful heart
Will never
Be able to rest.

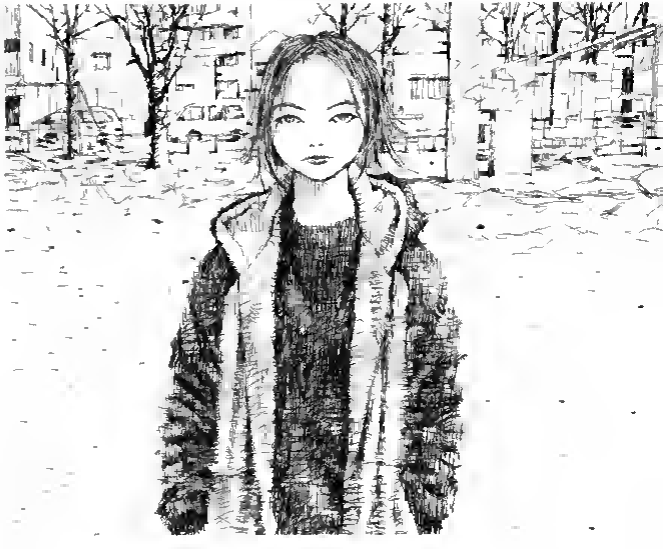

Sigh
Her sad and
Painful consolation
Is for the painful
World.

If I could
Comfort her
Pain...

SIGH

Or perhaps
The sin upon revolt.

Her name is Meejung.
I do not have a name
In this place yet.



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Editor: saga

Qcer: riseabove77

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May 2005

Yeondu, seventeen

BEEP
HELLO—HEY! ARE YOU STILL ALIVE IN THERE?
YOU NEVER PICK UP THE PHONE EVERY ONE HERE IS WORRIED ABOUT YOU
WELL NOW THAT I'VE RETIRED I'M ALSO STAYING AT HOME EVERY DAY LISTENING TO MY WIFE'S NAG-GING AND TRYING TO PLEASE THE CHILDREN
YOU'LL GET MAD AT ME FOR SAYING THIS, BUT SOME TIMES I EVEN GET JEALOUS OF YOU OH SORRY
ANYWAY LET'S GET TOGETHER SOON
WHEN YOU'RE TIRED YOU GOTTA TAKE IT OUT WITH SOME HOOZE. THAT'S WHY YOU HAVE FRIENDS YOU KNOW?
BEHIND

WIVES AND CHILDREN ARE USELESS WHEN IT COMES TO THAT ANYWAY I'LL SEE YOU SOON OK?
NEXT
SLURP
FRIED
FOR YOU

MEOW
DOO

DROP

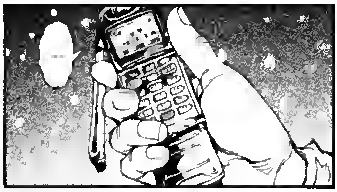
YEON DU...
crack

THE FIRST SNOW OF THE YEAR

MEOW

HAW?
YEAH THAT'S RIGHT

WAIT A SECOND
NO IT JUST STARTED TO COME DOWN



WHAT? YOU CAN'T HEAR IT?
THERE DID YOU HEAR IT? THE SOUND OF SNOW FALLING

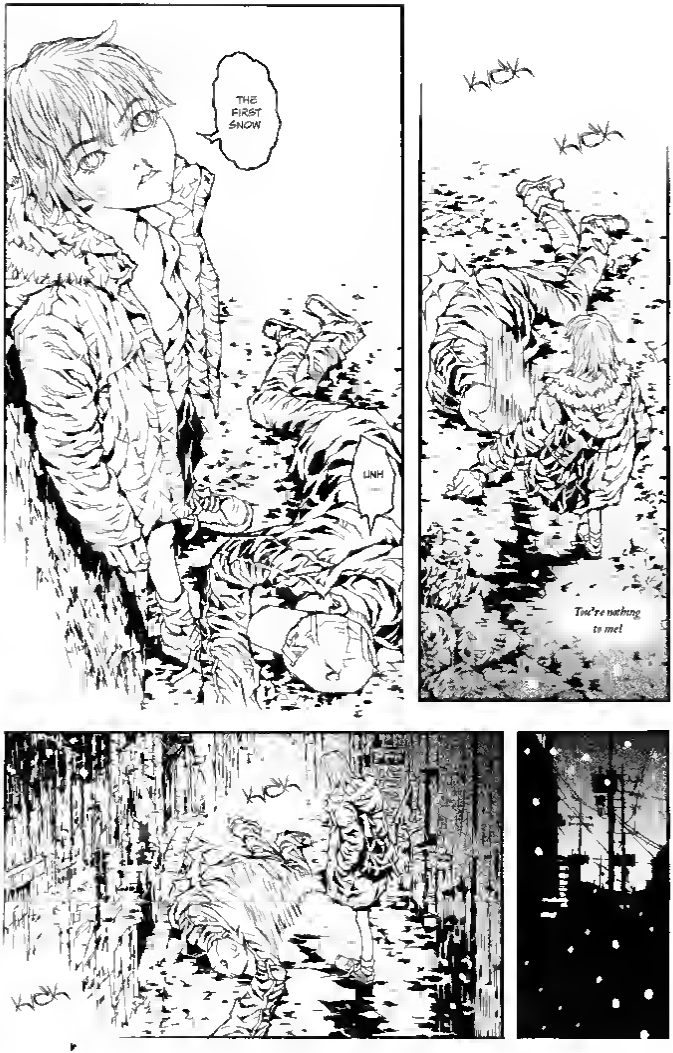
LISTEN CAREF-

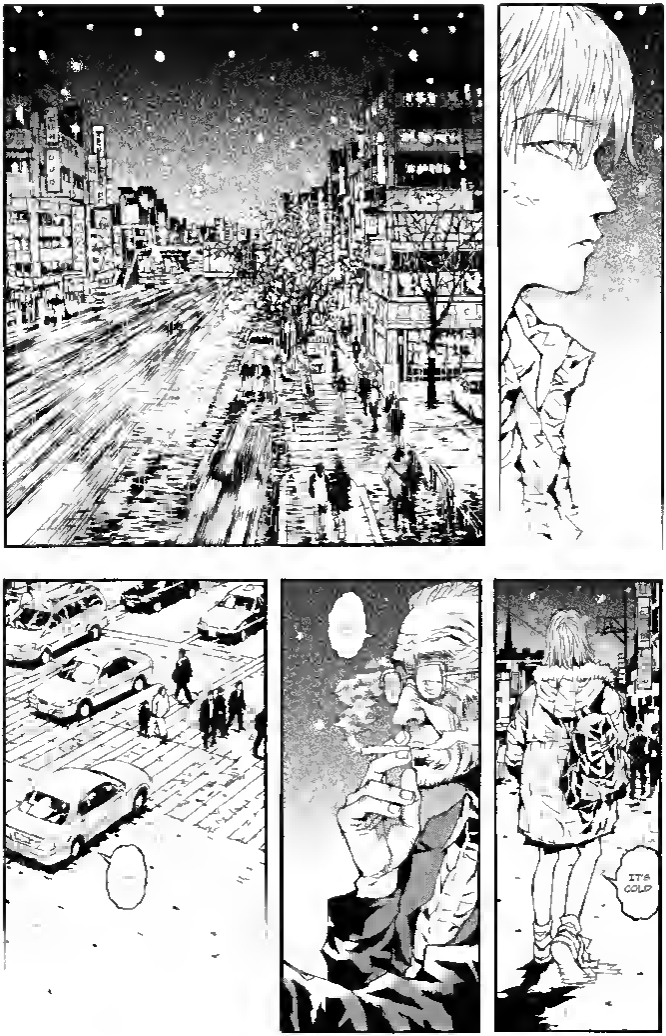
LONG TIME NO SEE
HYU... HYUNG GEUN?
WHY AREN'T YOU ANSWERING MY CALLS?
YOU'RE HURTING ME LET GO

I WAS JUST RUSH BECAUSE OF MY PART-TIME JOB
DID YOU THINK I'D LET IT PASS?
WHAT JOB? I KNOW ALL ABOUT YOUR WHORING.
WHAT... WHAT DO YOU MEAN...?
JOB?
FUCK, I'VE SEEN IT ALL

HYUNG HYUNG GEUN
I CAN'T GET AROUND TOWN BECAUSE OF YOU!
THOSE STUPID VIDEOS
WHEN I WANTED TO DO IT
YOU WEASELED OUT OF IT FUCK!
STAB
K
STAB

drip
drip
SLIP
LOOK


THE FIRST SNOW
UNH
You're nothing to me!


IT'S COLD

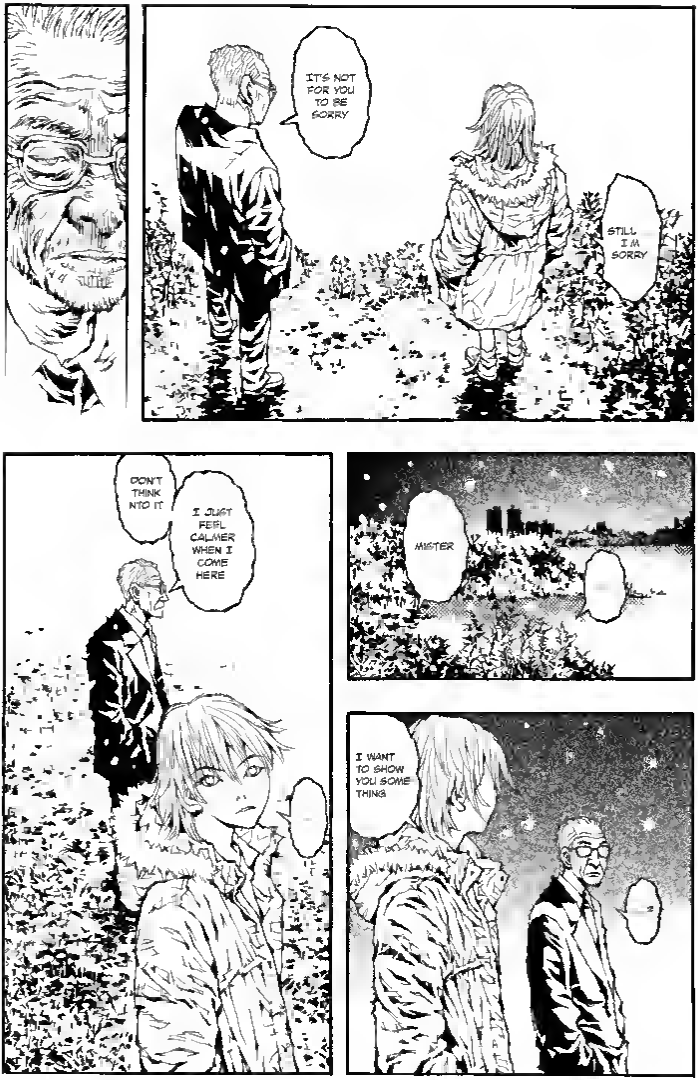
IT'S COLD
EXIT
SCREECH

ARE YOU ON YOUR WAY HOME?
WHO ARE YOU?
IT'S YOU
OH!
IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME
HELLO
WANT A RIDE?

VROOM
ARE YOU IN YOUR FIRST YEAR OF HIGH SCHOOL?
SECOND
ALREADY
YOU LOOK GOOD
REALLY? THANK YOU
YES
HAVE YOU BEEN WELL?

I WANT TO GO SOME WHERE
A1 BAR
HIGHWAY EXPRESS
WHERE? WEREN'T YOU ON YOUR WAY HOME?
I WANT TO TAKE A DRIVE
IT'S THE FIRST SNOW, TOO...
THE FIRST SNOW HUH?
IT IS TOO SPECIAL TO GO STRAIGHT HOME
OK THEN WHERE?
ANYWHERE ANYWHERE YOU WANT TO GO.
Where I want to go...

IS IT ALL RIGHT?
YES
IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME
I COME HERE ONCE IN A WHILE
WHEN I'M THINK ING OF THINGS
I'M SORRY


IT'S NOT FOR YOU TO BE SORRY
STILL I'M SORRY
DON'T THINK NTO IT
I JUST FEEL CALMER WHEN I COME HERE
MISTER
I WANT TO SHOW YOU SOME THING

IT'S ME.
THAT NIGHT HYUNSU DREW IT FOR ME
IT WAS MY BIRTH DAY PRE SENT
BUT IT IS UNFI NISHED
HYUNSU

HUH?
AREN'T YOUR HANDS COLD?
IT'S NOT THAT GOOD?
NO. BUT ARE YOU SURE THIS IS OK FOR YOUR BIRTHDAY PRESENT?
NO, I LIKE IT
HYUNSH COULD YOU COME HERE?
OK. WHY?
HOW IS IT?

...IT'S WARM
NOT THAT.
SO? IT'S STILL SMALL ISN'T IT?
HOW BIG DO MY BREASTS HAVE TO GROW FOR US TO EXPERIENCE TRUE LOVE...?
NO. NOT THAT KIND OF LOVE... I WANT TO REALLY LOVE
I LOVE YOU NOW TOO
HEY WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
HYUNSU ♥

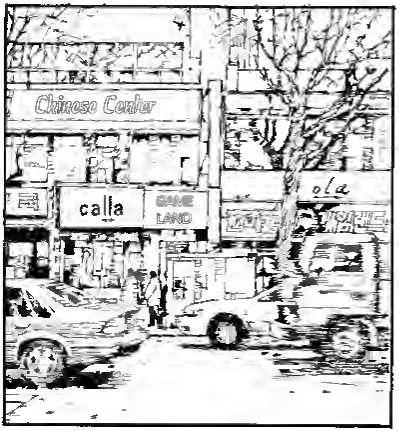
NOT AGAIN?
EVERY TIME YOU DRINK
hich hich
YEON DU
Pant!

Tendu!
Hyunsw...

BAM
choke
HYUNSU

...HE SAID THAT...
...
HE SAID THAT HE WOULD PROTECT ME ... WITH H S SMALL BODY...
I'LL NEVER
...FORGIVE THEM...
WHAT... WHAT'S THAT KNIFE?

YEON DU
I'LL KILL THEM
IF I MEET THEM BY CHANCE, I'LL KILL THEM
THAT'S THE ONLY REASON I'M STILL LIVING
YEON DU


Chinese Center
calla
GAME LAND
ola

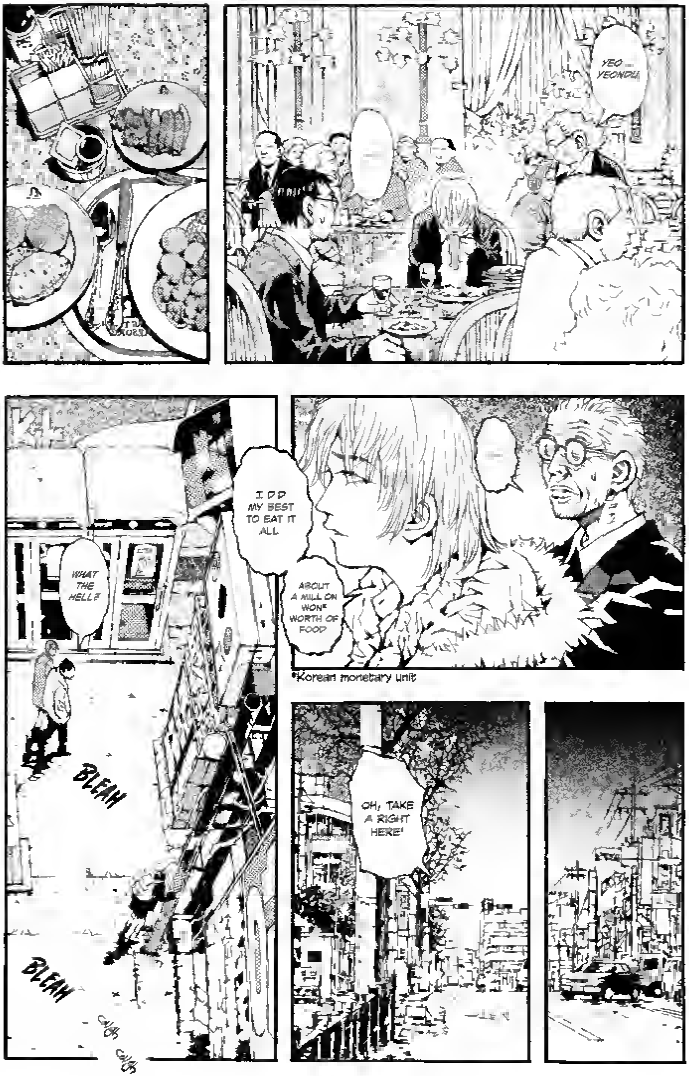
I HAVE SOMEPLACE I WANT TO GO
YEONDU

IF WE DON'T GO HOME NOW
YOUR PARENTS WILL WORRY
MY PARENTS AREN'T AT HOME

THEY DON'T EVEN ANSWER THEIR PHONE

ARE YOU HUNGRY?
I'LL GO EAT AT THE HOTEL
...
I'M COLD
IT'S NOT COLD, DARLING
I'M GETTING HOTTER, ACTUALLY ♥
MR DIRECTOR ♥
A COLLEAGUE FROM WORK...?
NO

IT'S AN AFFAIR
DID YOU KNOW ABOUT IT?
NO, I DIDN'T KNOW
BUT, I'VE SEEN MOM'S BOYFRIEND
YEO YEON-DU.
THIS IS ONE OF MY CLIENTS.
HEY
SO YOU'RE YEONDU
CAN I OFFER TO BUY YOU DINNER?
HER BEAUTY'S TAKEN AFTER ME

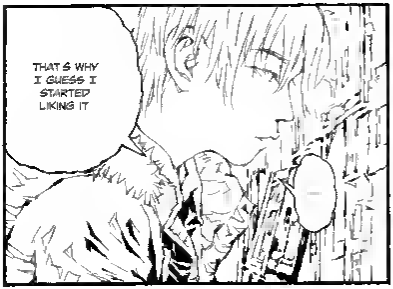


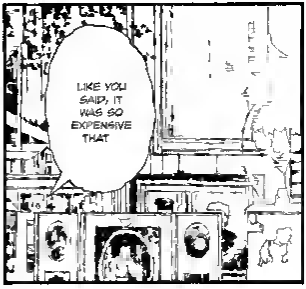
*Korean monetary unit

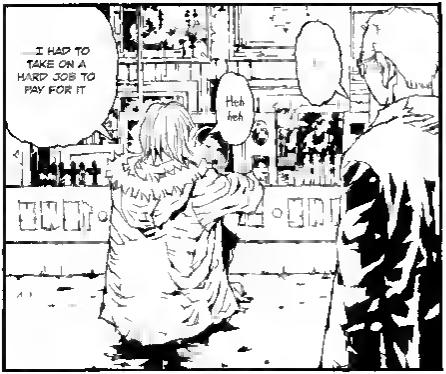
THE PRAWNS IN THE FAR BACK
Vroom
HALF OF IT IS MINE
WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?
I RESERVED IT AND PAID HALF THE MONEY
IT'S EXPENSIVE...
I USED TO...

WALK THREE HOURS WITH HYUNSU TO COME SEE THIS
HYUNSU LIKED IT A LOT

I LOVED HIS EXPRESSION WHEN HE LOOKED AT THAT PICTURE


THAT'S WHY I GUESS I STARTED LIKING IT


LIKE YOU SAID, IT WAS SO EXPENSIVE THAT


I HAD TO TAKE ON A HARD JOB TO PAY FOR IT
Heh heh

ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT THAT VIDEO?

YOU SAW IT?!
BY CHANCE ...
YOU WATCH THOSE KINDS OF THINGS, TOO?!
...
I'M SORRY
I SAW IT BY CHANCE ...
AT FIRST, I D'DN'T KNOW IT WAS YOU.
BUT THEN I SAW THE SCAR ON YOUR LEFT SHOULDER ...

Coffee . Food
IT'S WARM
MISTER
HMM?
HOW WAS IT?
I THOUGHT THAT YOU HAD GROWN MUCH!

WHEN YOU WERE YOUNG THERE WAS A TIME WHEN ALL OF US INCLUDING YOUR PARENTS WENT TO THE BEACH TOGETHER I THINK IT WAS DURING YOUR KINDERGARTEN OUTING...
AT NIGHT, THERE WAS AN ACCIDENT WHERE SOME FIRECRACKERS WENT BAD SOMEBODY HAD LIGHTED THEM BY ACCIDENT

EVERYBODY WAS FRANTICALLY TRYING TO RUN AWAY FROM THE SPARKS BUT YOU AND HYUNGU, YOU TWO
...WOULDN'T MOVE AND JUST STARED AT THE SPARKS EXPLODING
...

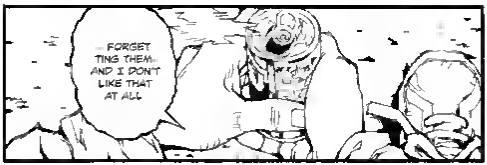
THAT'S WHEN A SPARK FELL ON YOUR SHOULDER AND SCARRED YOU

I DON'T REMEMBER IT
EVERYONE WAS SURPRISED AND SAID YOU WERE A FEARLESS CHILD

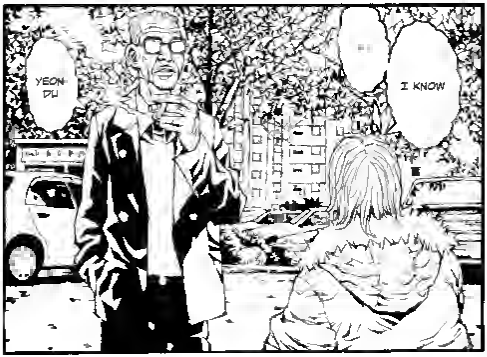
I DON'T KNOW WHY, BUT I CAN'T REMEMBER ANYTHING FROM MY CHILDHOOD
EVEN THIS TIME I SPENT WITH HYUNSU...
IT'S STRANGE... THEY'RE ALL DISAPPEARING FROM ME...
I LIKED HIM SO MUCH...
BUT I ONLY REMEMBER WHEN WE STARED AT THAT PICTURE TOGETHER. I GUESS I'M NOT TOO BRIGHT
I THOUGHT THAT IF I HAD THE PICTURE...
I WOULDN'T FORGET THE TIMES I SPENT WITH HYUNSU
I DON'T WANT TO FORGET BUT I KEEP FORGETTING...
THAT'S WHY I DECIDED TO BUY THE PICTURE

ONLY THE TIME
...THAT PASSED BY IS IMPORTANT TO ME

I KEEP

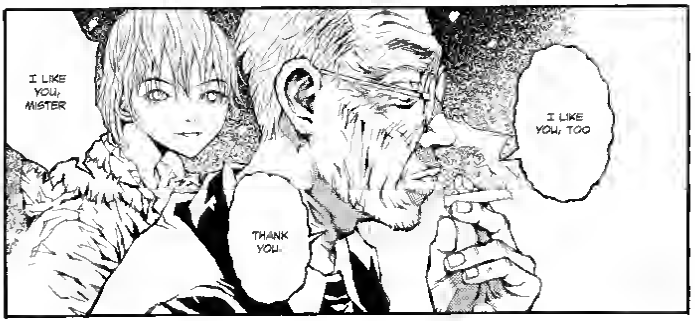

FORGET TING THEM. AND I DON'T LIKE THAT AT ALL

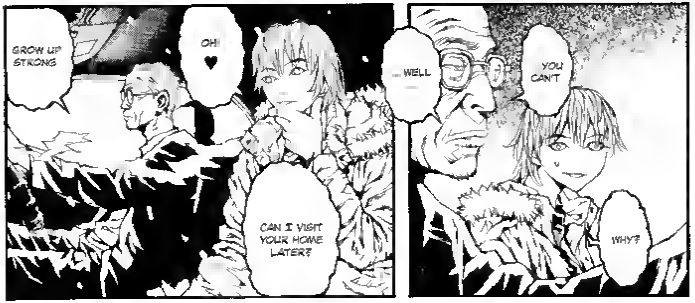
IT'S ALL IN THE PAST
I KNOW

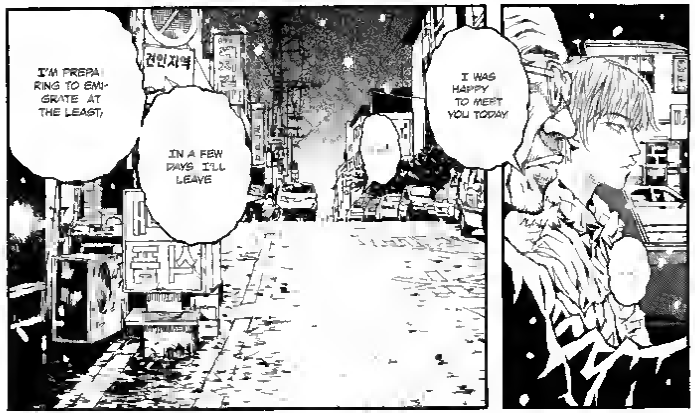

YEON DU
I KNOW

FORGET ABOUT IT
I'M SORRY
CAN YOU FORGET YOUR WIFE?
THAT WAS OUT OF THE BLUE

I DON'T REMEMBER HER WELL, BUT I DO REMEMBER HER SMILE
YOU TWO WERE SO CLOSE...
THAT WAS A LONG TIME AGO
I ALWAYS FELT SORRY BECAUSE I THOUGHT IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN ME CAUSE OF AYUMU
THAT'S NOT WHY
THEN WHY...
I DON'T KNOW
YOU CAN'T PREDICT WHAT WILL HAPPEN BETWEEN PEOPLE


I LIKE YOU, MISTER
I LIKE YOU, TOO
THANK YOU.


GROW UP STRONG
OH! ♥
CAN I VISIT YOUR HOME LATER?
...WELL
YOU CAN'T
WHY?

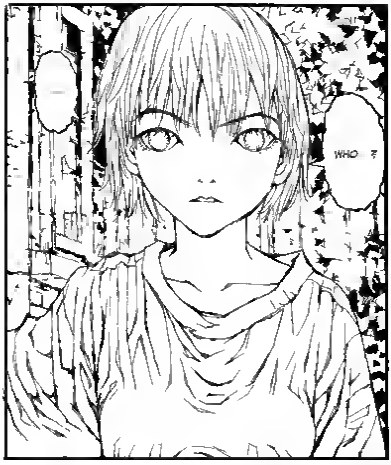

I'M PREPARING TO EMIGRATE AT THE LEAST,
IN A FEW DAYS I'LL LEAVE
I WAS HAPPY TO MEET YOU TODAY

WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
I'M NOT SURE
MISTER, TAKE ME WITH YOU
IT'S A PLACE WE CAN'T GO TOGETHER
WHERE IS IT?
IT'S CALLED TAHITI ISLAND
IT'S A SMALL ISLAND, SOUTH FROM HERE

I WANT TO...
...LEAVE FOR SOME WHERE LIKE YOU
I...
...KNOW ABOUT TAHITI, TOO
YOU DO...
IT'S THE ISLAND OF GAUGUIN
IT FITS YOU
IS THAT SO?
I DON'T HAVE SKILLS IN PAINTING.
WHEN YOU GET THERE
WRITE ME A LETTER

I WILL
I'LL WRITE YOU BACK
I WILL
GOOD NIGHT!
YOU, TOO
ヒュウウ

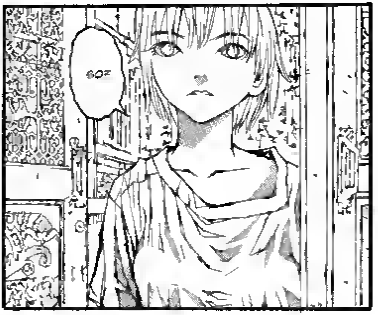
ぬかるみ
ぬかるみ

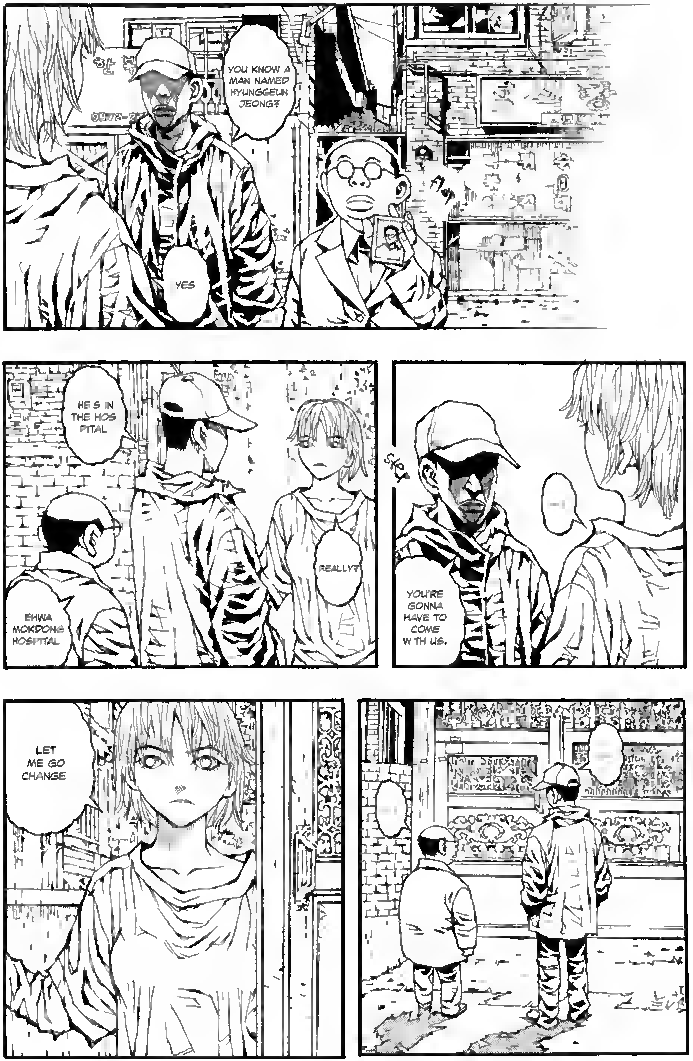

WHO ?

ARE THERE ANY ADULTS HOME?
NO

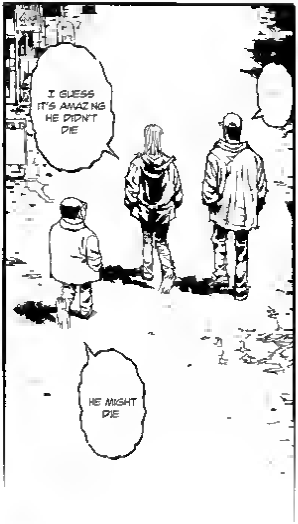
ARE YOU YEONPIL CHOI?

WE'RE THE POLICE

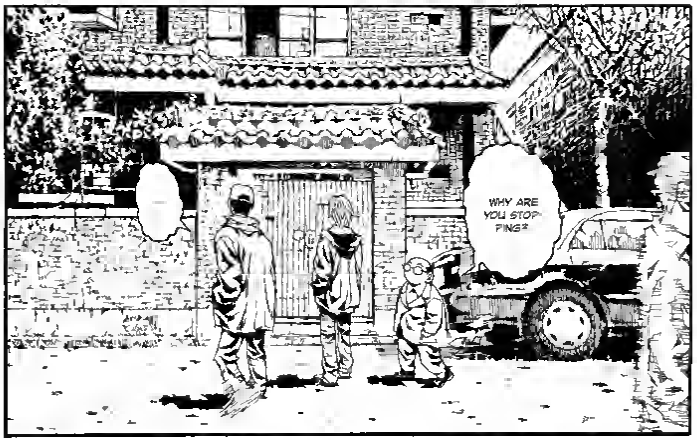

GO?

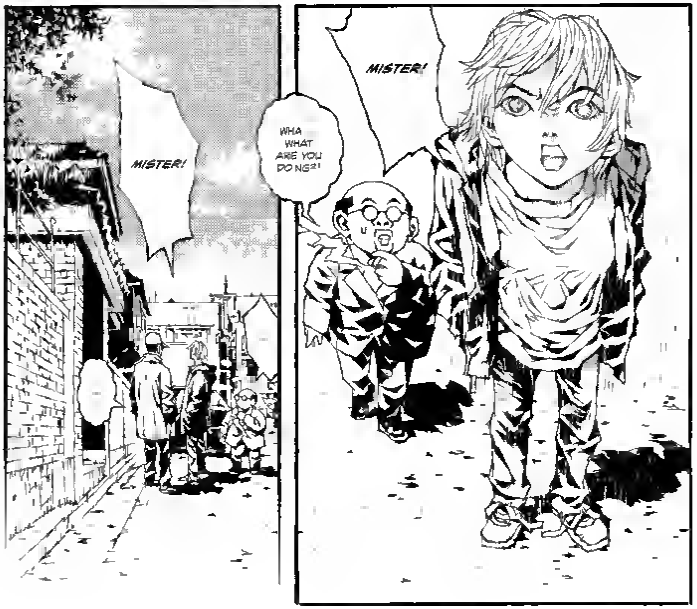

YOU KNOW A MAN NAMED HYUNGSEUN JEONG?
YES
HE'S IN THE HOSPITAL
EHWA MOKDONG HOSPITAL
REALLY?
YOU'RE GONNA HAVE TO COME WITH US.
LET ME GO CHANGE

IS HE HURT A LOT?
I DON'T KNOW
WOULDN'T IT HURT YOU F YOU WERE STARED LIKE THAT?


I GUESS IT'S AMAZING HE DIDN'T DIE
HE MIGHT DIE

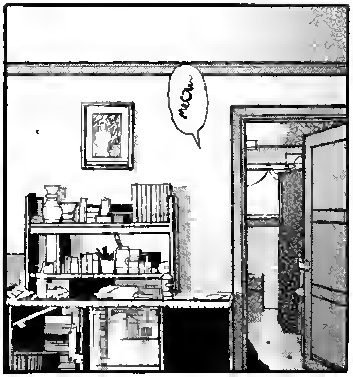
THAT GUY SHOULD DIE
IS THAT FOR YOU TO SAY?

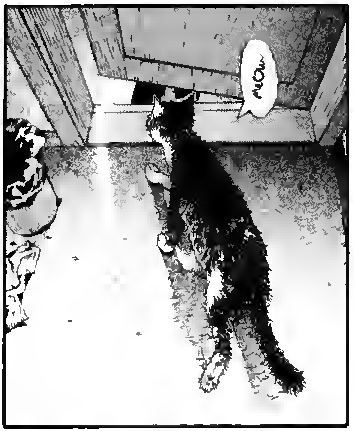

WHY ARE YOU STOPPING?


MISTER!
WHA WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
MISTER!

HEY!
ARE ARE YOU IGNORING ME?!
...
DID HE ALREADY LEAVE?
YOU
TAHITI...

A warm country
in the south...


meow


meow

MEOW
MEOW

MEOW

DO YOU KNOW ABOUT TAHITI?
WHAT'S THAT?

A SMALL ISLAND IN THE SOUTH

TAHITI IS WARM EVERY DAY
THAT'S OBVIOUS BECAUSE IT'S AN ISLAND IN THE FAR SOUTH
I'M THINKING ABOUT GOING THERE, TOO
IT'S TOO COLD HERE
MY HEATER'S BROKEN, TOO
YOU'LL HAVE TO GO THROUGH A LONG INVESTIGATION
YOU MIGHT NOT BE ABLE TO GO ANY-WHERE

IF I WANTED TO
I COULD GO ANY-WHERE...
THAT DOESN'T MATTER
...

Free Cable TV installation

undecided

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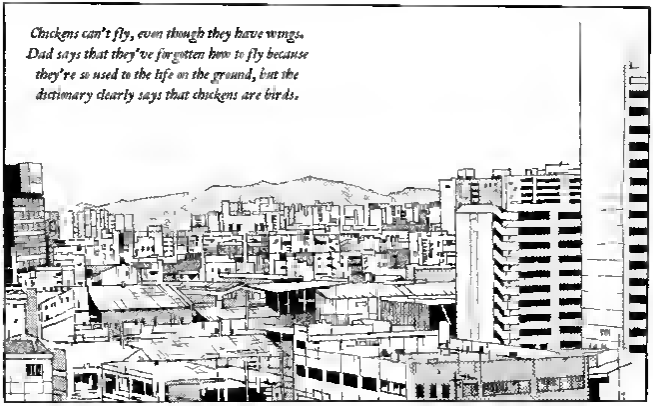
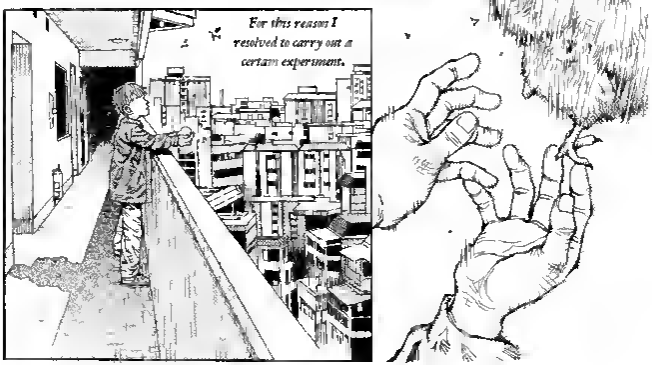
If I wanted to, I could go anywhere ... somewhere that's not here.


Chickens can't fly, even though they have wings. Dad says that they've forgotten how to fly because they're so used to the life on the ground, but the dictionary clearly says that chickens are birds.

The fact that they can't fly even though they're birds, is a sad degeneration brought about by negligence. It's a pity.
Then maybe if you make a chick acquire the habit of flying in its early years, could it fly when it becomes a chicken?


For this reason I resolved to carry out a certain experiment.

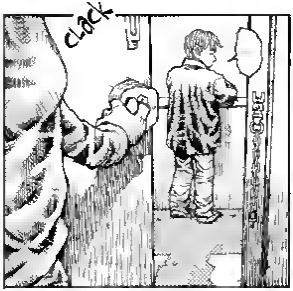
Fly,
chick.

utility

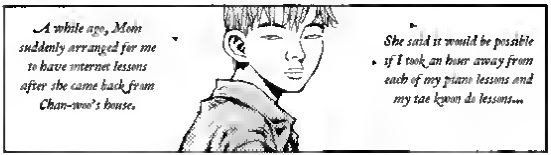
Story by Yoon Inwan

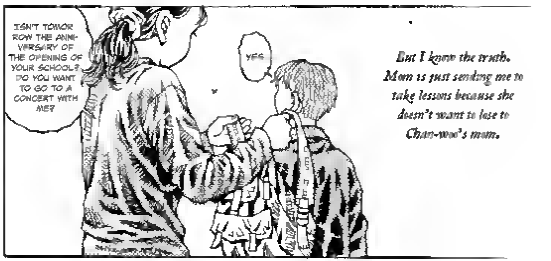
Inserted in the May 2002 republication issue of Big Comic Spirits

You idiot, you have to flap harder.
I guess you couldn't be helped either, Chick number eleven.
OH HYUN!

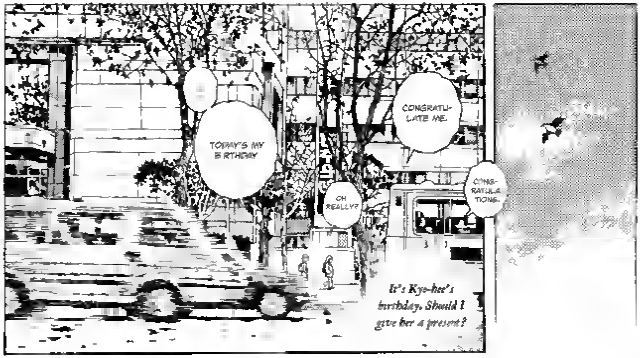

clack
CLICK

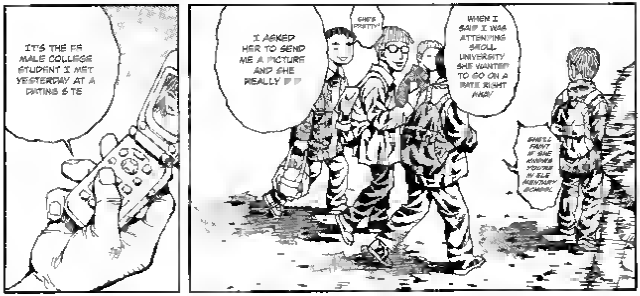
WHAT ARE YOU DOING? WHY HAVEN'T YOU LEFT ALREADY?

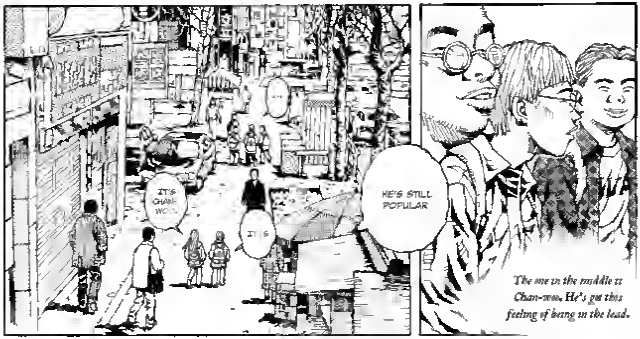

A while ago, Mom suddenly arranged for me to have internet lessons after she came back from Chan-woo's house.
She said it would be possible if I took an hour away from each of my piano lessons and my tae kwon do lessons...


ISN'T TOMORROW THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE OPENING OF YOUR SCHOOL? DO YOU WANT TO GO TO A CONCERT WITH ME?
YES.
But I know the truth. Mom is just sending me to take lessons because she doesn't want to lose to Chan-woo's mom.

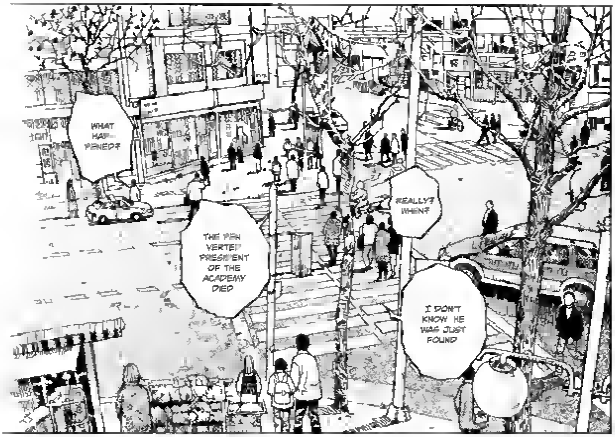
HI
HI
This kid's name is Kyo-hee...
She was in the same class as me until the fifth grade.
A WHILE AGO...
YES?
I SAW A CHICK FALLING YOU DID THAT, RIGHT?
THERE WERE NO OUT STANDING RESULTS
TOMORROW I'M GOING TO LET THEM GO AT ONE FLOOR HIGHER IF THEIR FEAR INCREASES
THEY'LL FLAP THEIR WINGS HARDER
EPISODE
IT MIGHT SEEM THAT WAY
BUT PEOPLE MUST HAVE SAID THAT ABOUT EIFFEL TOWER AT FIRST

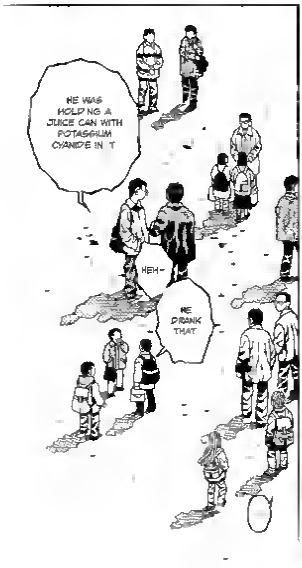

TODAY'S MY BIRTHDAY
CONGRATULATE ME.
OH REALLY?
CONGRATULATIONS.
It's Kyu-hee's birthday. Should I give her a present?

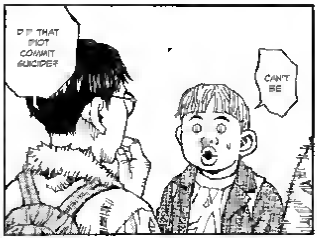

IT'S THE FIRST MALE COLLEGE STUDENT I MET YESTERDAY AT A DATING SITE
I ASKED HER TO SEND ME A PICTURE AND SHE REALLY DID
SHE'S PRETTY
WHEN I SAID I WAS ATTENDING SEOUL UNIVERSITY, SHE WANTED TO GO ON A DATE RIGHT AWAY
SHE'S FAMOUS AT HER SCHOOL. YOU'RE IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL.


IT'S CHAN-WOO
I'M
HE'S STILL POPULAR
The one in the middle is Chan-woo. He's got this feeling of being in the lead.

HELLO
PRTEK
LOOK ISN'T THIS COOL? THIS IS THE NEW DANCE MOVE I LEARNED FROM THE MOVIE I BOUGHT YESTERDAY
WANT TO LEARN?
NO THANKS
THAT'S TOO BAD
But, why am I suddenly introducing all these kids?
Probably because of this.
RUN!


WHAT HAPPENED?
THE VICE PRESIDENT OF THE ACADEMY DIED
REALLY? WHEN?
I DON'T KNOW. HE WAS JUST FOUND

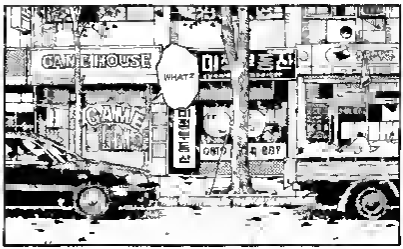

HE WAS HOLDING A JUICE CAN WITH POTASSIUM CYANIDE IN IT
HEH-
HE DRANK THAT

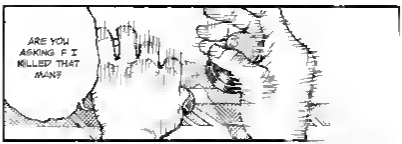

D'D THAT DIDN'T COMMIT SUICIDE?
CAN'T BE

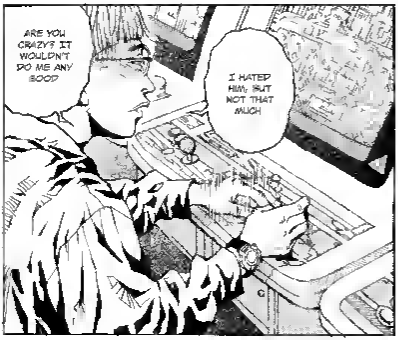
HOW COULD A CONSTANTLY SMIRKING MAN LIKE HIM BE SAD ENOUGH TO COMMIT SUICIDE?
TRUE

HE'S NOT A PERVERT JUST BY NAME. HE MUST'VE GOTTEN KILLED FROM TOUCHING SOMEONE'S BUTT.
YEAH, YEAH.
BUT WOULD SOMEONE HAVE KILLED HIM JUST FOR THAT?
THEY WOULD.
EVERY ONE?
ENVIOUS GIRLS
BUT EVERY ONE WANTED TO KILL HIM, NOT JUST FOR THAT REASON

YOU! THIS IS NO PLACE TO BE LOOKING AT A PORN MAGAZINE!
...
I JUST WHAT YOU'RE SAYING
MOTEL
HEY, AREN'T THOSE TWO PEOPLE...
HE WOMAN WHO WENT INTO THAT HOTEL WITH THE PRESIDENT ISN'T SHE YOUR MOM, PETER
SHUT UP IF YOU TELL ANYONE, I'LL KILL YOU
HMM ...
HMM
HMM. WHAT ARE YOU STARING AT CHI-HYUN?
NOTHING
IT'S NOTHING

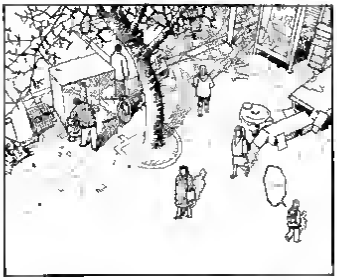

GAME HOUSE
WHAT?

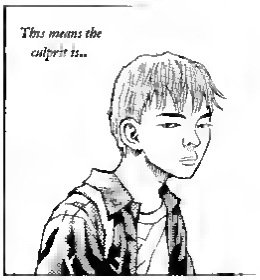

ARE YOU ASKING F I KILLED THAT MAN?

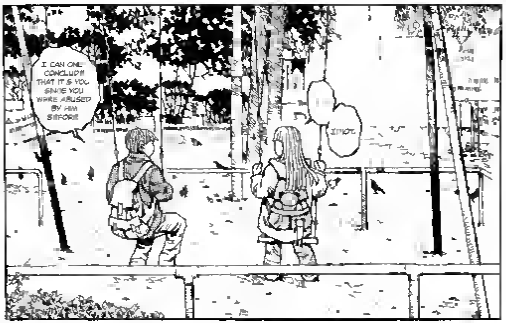

ARE YOU CRAZY? IT WOULDN'T DO ME ANY GOOD!
I HATED HIM, BUT NOT THAT MUCH

IF I HAD THE TIME TO DO THAT...
ARGH!

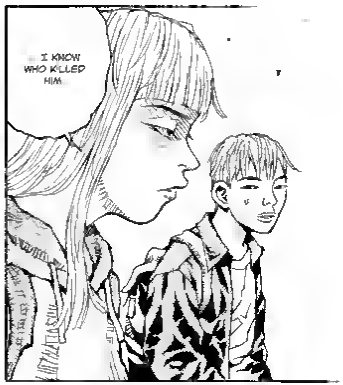
HEY! THAT WAS YOUR FAULT. I WANT MY MONEY.
One um.
I DIDN'T KILL HIM, EITHER
What my mom does has nothing to do with me. I don't care who she has an affair with
My dad might have a grudge against him, but not me
But I want to clap my hands at the fact that the academy president died!
This guy's one, too.




This means the culprit is...

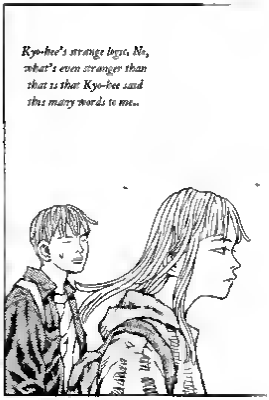

I CAN ONLY CONCLUDE THAT IT IS YOU, SHE'S YOU WHO KILLED BY HIM BEFORE

Is that so...? Well, whatever. Who cares about the culprit?
BUT


I KNOW WHO KILLED HIM.

MY BIG SISTER.
Right. Kyo-hee's big sister! Why didn't I think of that? Kyo-hee's sister was one of the teachers in our academy, and No. 1 on the list of the president's aboard. She has plenty of motives for murder.
ARE YOU GOING TO REPORT HER?
NO. I WOULDN'T DO THAT
I WAS JUST CURIOUS
REALLY?
THEN YOU'RE AN ACCOMPLICE TOO
Huh? H-hey!
NOT REPORTING A CRIME FALLS UNDER AN OFFENSE FOR CONCEALMENT
WITH THIS YOU HAVE BECOME AN ACCOMPLICE SAME AS ME
WHY

YOU CAN'T ESCAPE NOW. A PERSON OF OUR AGE WHO'S GUILTY OF CONCEALMENT CAN GET THEIR PARENTS ARRESTED. IT'LL BE A BIG INCIDENT


Kyo-hee's strange boys. No, what's even stranger than that is that Kyo-hee said this many words to me...

...and that she knows more big words than I do.

WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
HOME

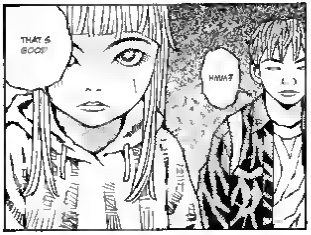
YOUR PARENTS?
THEY WENT ON A BUSINESS TRIP OUT OF THE COUNTRY A MONTH AGO.
OK

WHAT IS THAT SMELL?
OVER THERE

SHE COMMITTED SUICIDE YESTERDAY. WHAT AN IDIOT
I DON'T KNOW WHY SHE KILLED HIM. IF SHE WAS GOING TO FEEL GUILTY ABOUT IT
THAT'S HER.

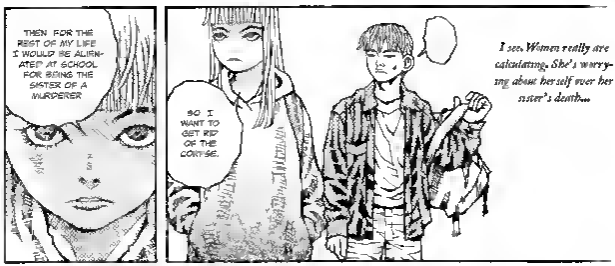
THIS IS A STRANGE FEELING
WHAT?

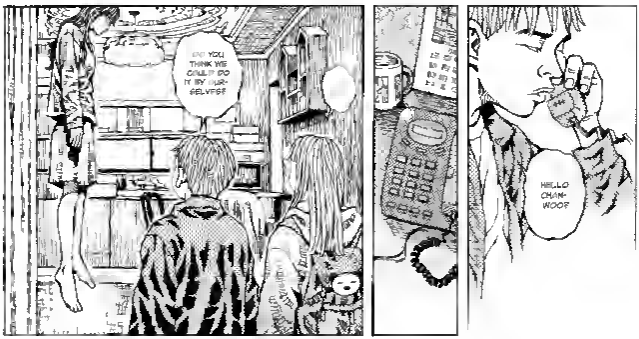
A CORPSE. THIS IS MY FIRST TIME SEEING ONE, BUT I'M NOT THAT SCARED.
REAL LIFE.
It was just like looking at the dead chick back at the apartment.


THAT'S GOOD.
HMM?

I THOUGHT IT WOULD BE OK IF IT WAS YOU.
HUH?

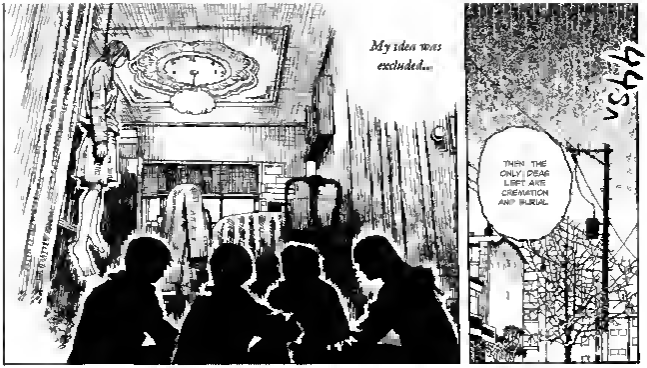
IF YOU HAD CALLED THE POLICE, IT WOULD HAVE BEEN KNOWN THAT MY SISTER KILLED THE ACADEMY PRESIDENT

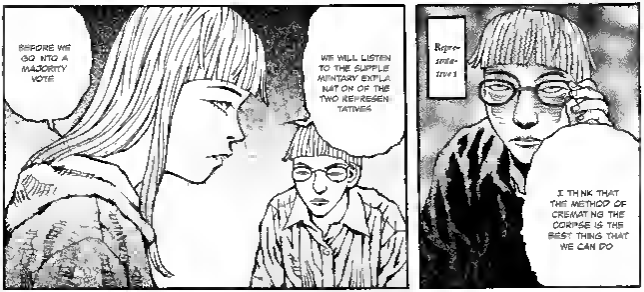

THEN FOR THE REST OF MY LIFE I WOULD BE ALIENATED AT SCHOOL FOR BEING THE SISTER OF A MURDERER
SO I WANT TO GET RID OF THE CORPSE.
I see. Women really are calculating. She's worrying about herself over her sister's death...


BUT YOU THINK WE COULD DO IT BY OURSELVES?
HELLO CHIMWOOD?

Two more accomplices.
YOU'RE KIDDING! DISPENSE FOR CONCEALMENT?
WOW! IS THIS REALLY A CORPSE?
We immediately started a debate on how to dispose of the corpse. Using the method we'd learned from our literature class.

OK. SHOULD KYO-HEE BE THE CHAIR THIS?
I APPROVE
SHE'S FIT
IF EVERY ONE'S OK WITH IT
I THINK THE "LAMP" WOULD BE GOOD
THE GARBAGE DUMP?
THERE WOULD BE NOBODY THERE RIGHT NOW...SO WE COULD SECRETLY CREMATE HER USING THE INCINERATOR
I THINK
WE SHOULD BURY HER ON THE HILL BEHIND THE APARTMENT
AND YOU MR. CHIEVIN?
HMM, I THINK THAT...
WE SHOULD CARVE THE CORPSE
INTO SMALL PIECES

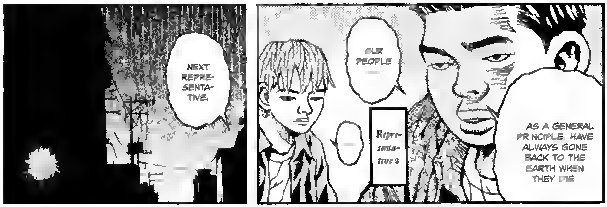

My idea was excluded...
THEN THE ONLY IDEAS LEFT ARE CREMATION AND BURIAL.


BEFORE WE GO INTO A MAJORITY VOTE
WE WILL LISTEN TO THE SUPPLEMENTARY EXPLANATION OF THE TWO REPRESENTATIVES
Representatives
I THINK THAT THIS METHOD OF CREMATING THE CORPSE IS THE BEST THING THAT WE CAN DO

A BURIAL WOULD TAKE A LOT OF TIME JUST TO DIG A HOLE
AND IT WOULD BE PHYSICALLY DIFFICULT FOR US. THE MOST IMPORTANT MATTER IS THAT...
...

APARTMENTS ARE BEING CONTINUALLY DEVELOPED HERE.
YOU DON'T KNOW WHEN IT MIGHT BE DUG UP BY A CONSTRUCTION MACHINE. BURIAL IS TRULY A FOOLISH IDEA.
CREMATION WHICH IS SIMPLE AND EASY IS THE SENSIBLE SOLUTION.

CREMATION IS THE ONLY WAY.
That was more of a criticism of the other side than a supplementary explanation.

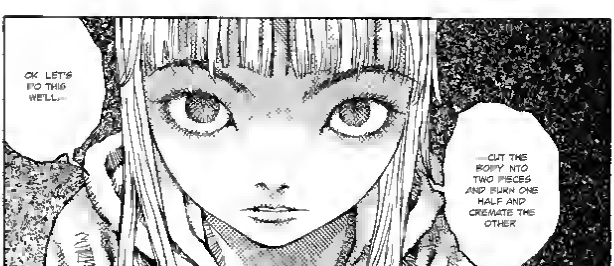

NEXT. REPRESENTATIVE.
OUR PEOPLE
Representative's
AS A GENERAL PRINCIPLE, HAVE ALWAYS GONE BACK TO THE EARTH WHEN THEY DIE.

BUT CREMATION ARE WE TRYING TO KILL HER SISTER ONCE MORE? AND
THE GAS RAISE PUMP IS A KILOMETER AWAY.

DO YOU THINK WE COULD MOVE THE CORPSE WITHOUT BEING SEEN? NO WE'LL BE CAUGHT IN THE TRANSPORTATION PROCESS
IF WE BURY HER, IT WOULD BE AT THE HILL AT THE BACK OF THE APARTMENT WHICH IS ONLY A HUNDRED METERS AWAY
EVERYONE... FACE THE FACTS. THE ONLY WAY TO DO THIS IS BURIAL
After that, we went into a majority vote, which is the principle of a democracy and the result came out to be a score of 2 to 2. The debate went back into a stalemate.
WE'LL NEED FOR ONE OF THE REPRESENTATIVES TO WITHDRAW THEIR ARGUMENT
I CANNOT DO THAT
BECAUSE I SEE A BAD OUTCOME FROM PETER'S ARGUMENT
Representative's
SO DO YI CHAN WOO'S ARGUMENT IS UNREASONABLE
Representative's

THIS MAKES ME REMEMBER
WHEN WE WERE VOTING FOR CLASS PRESIDENT
Kyo-hee had just lit fire on their fuses.
The class president election. It had happened when all of us four had been in the same class, last spring.
Chan-woo and Peter were candidates, and they had received the same amount of votes. It was amazing.
The teacher asked that one of them yield to the other and become vice-president, but neither would yield.
That was because the vice-president would not be recognized by fellow classmates or parents.
to the end that even a lot to blood shed after school.

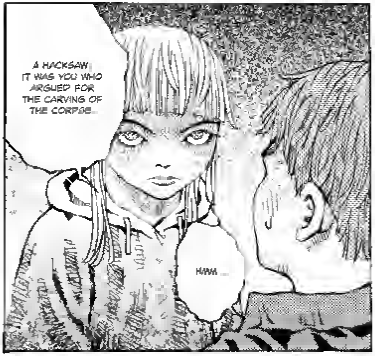
They grabbed each other by the throat, one one before the other.
A debate leading to a fight. Calm down, would you..? Are you politicians or something...?
STOP IT
ARE YOU GOING TO FIGHT ALL NIGHT?
IF THE SUN RISES WE HAVE TO KEEP THE BODY IN THE HOUSE FOR ANOTHER DAY
IF IT'S LEFT HERE FOR ANOTHER DAY THE SMELL MIGHT REACH THE NEIGHBORS' HOUSE


OK. LET'S DO THIS WELL...
—CUT THE BODY INTO TWO PIECES AND BURN ONE HALF AND CREMATE THE OTHER

That's it! If we do that it will be easy to carry and we can save time. You're amazing, Kyo-hee! This is what Salomon's wisdom must have been like.

vshhh...

HERE TAKE IT


A HACKSAW! IT WAS YOU WHO ARGUED FOR THE CARVING OF THE CORPSE...
HMM...

WOULD THIS WORK...?
WE DON'T HAVE TIME

CHUG

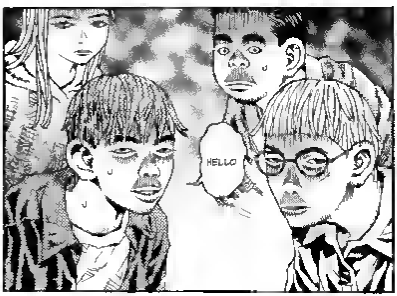
THE BLOOD MIGHT GUSH OUT...
IT'S OK. THE BODY'S OLD IT'S PROBABLY HARD BY NOW
DITTO

OK, let's do this. I'll just think of it as dissecting a frog. If I want to become a doctor, like my mom wants me to, then it might be a good experience.

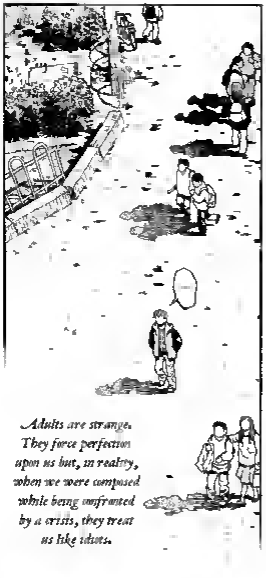
USE ALL YOUR STRENGTH
I KNOW
click

Kyo-hee's mother and father came back to celebrate Kyo-hee's birthday...

MOAN

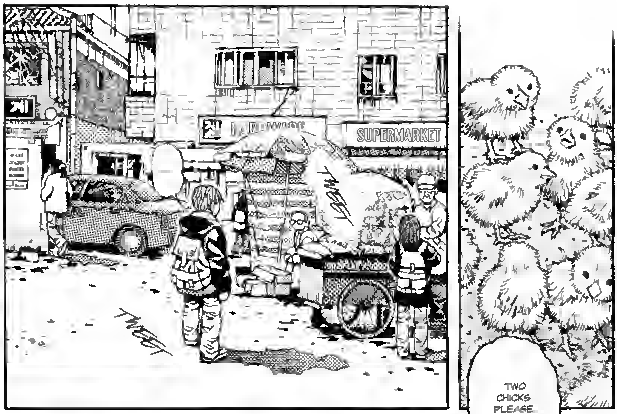

HELLO

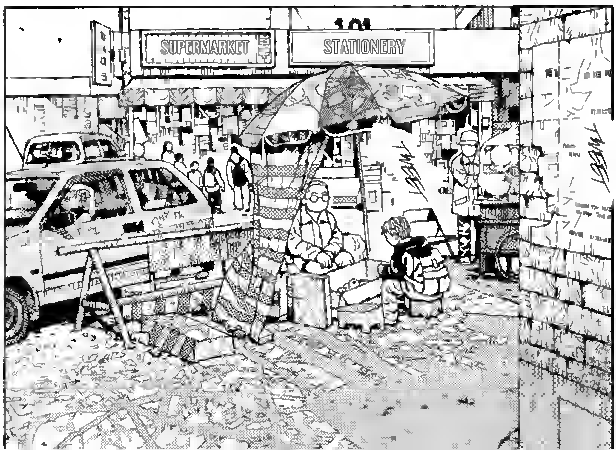
A week later, Kyu-hee's sister's funeral was carried out at the cathedral. The motive for suicide was forever hidden away by Kyu-hee's parents.
Of course, this was hard on all of us, too. At first, we were accused of being the murderers of Kyu-hee's sister...
And even after the truth was revealed, my mom took me to the mental hospital.
However, I don't think that we were strange at all. Actually, I feel pride in our calm and composed judgment at that time.


Adults are strange. They force perfection upon us but, in reality, when we were composed while being confronted by a crisis, they treat us like idiots.

However, Galileo and E
Edison were treated as
idiots in the beginning,
So it's OK. All I have t
do is make chickens fly.

When that day comes ... this event will be recorded as an anecdote in my biography.


SUPERMARKET
TWO CHICKS PLEASE.


SUPERMARKET
STATIONERY

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Translator: skyam1830

Editor: saga

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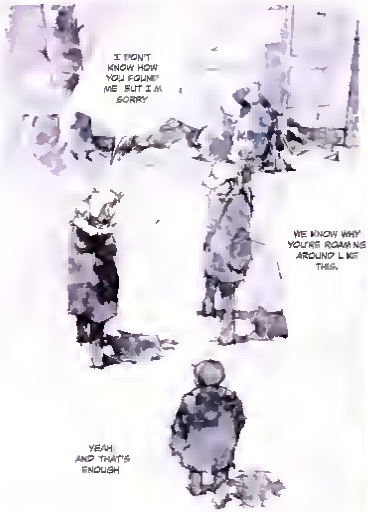
Your song

EVEN IF I WANTED TO SING I CAN'T ANYMORE
LIAR
THAT'S LOW, MAN.


I DON'T KNOW HOW YOU FOUND ME BUT I'M SORRY
WE KNOW WHY YOU'RE ROAMING AROUND LIKE THIS.
YEAH, AND THAT'S ENOUGH

WHAT DO YOU MEAN IT'S ENOUGH?
YOU CAN FIND YOUR SISTER WHILE YOU'RE IN THE BAND, RIGHT?

BYE.
HEY, YOU KNOW OUR BAND CAN'T SURVIVE WITHOUT YOU.
THIS JUST LOOKS LIKE YOU'RE ESCAPING FROM EVERYTHING, YOU KNOW THAT?!
I'm sorry. I really can't sing anymore.

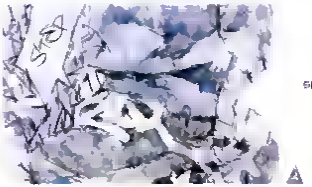
YEAH, THAT IS IT SLOWLY, SLOWLY

GOOD WORK HOW ABOUT GOING FOR A DRINK?
I'M SORRY BUT I'LL GO NEXT TIME
ARE YOU PAYING?
KKK

KUN-JUE

I LOVE YOUR SONG

IT AROUSES ME TO HEAR YOUR SONG.


SING SOME MORE

GAH
WHAM
...!

WHA
WHAT?
step
step
WHAT
WHAT THE
HELL?!
I'LL ... I'LL GET
YOU FOR THIS!!

WHA...
WHAT?
...?!
WHO ARE YOU?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
THAT SONG WHERE'D YOU LEARN IT?
WHAT SONG?
THAT MELODY FROM BEFORE WHERE'D YOU HEAR IT FROM?

AFRICA.
AFRICA?
YEAH, AFRICA

WHY DO YOU SING THE SAME SONG EVERY DAY?

YOU DON'T LIKE ... THIS SONG?
YES, I DO I'VE ALREADY MEMORIZED IT
THIS SONG ... IS MY SONG

IT'S A SONG THAT JUST CAME TO ME ONE DAY.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
IT'S THE SONG THAT MY BIG BROTHER GAVE TO ME AS A PRESENT ON MY SEVENTEENTH BIRTHDAY
IT'S THE SIXTEENTH BIRTHDAY.

WHERE'S MIN-JU...?
IT WAS YOU THE BROTHER MIN JU TALKED ABOUT SOME TIMES
I WENT TO GO SEE YOUR BAND PLAY A CONCERT A LONG TIME AGO
THE NAME WAS TOUR AFRICA I THINK.

Your hand... I don't remember the song very well, but...

...I remember Min-ju, who stared only at you from far away.

As I remember, she even shed some tears ... like an idiot...

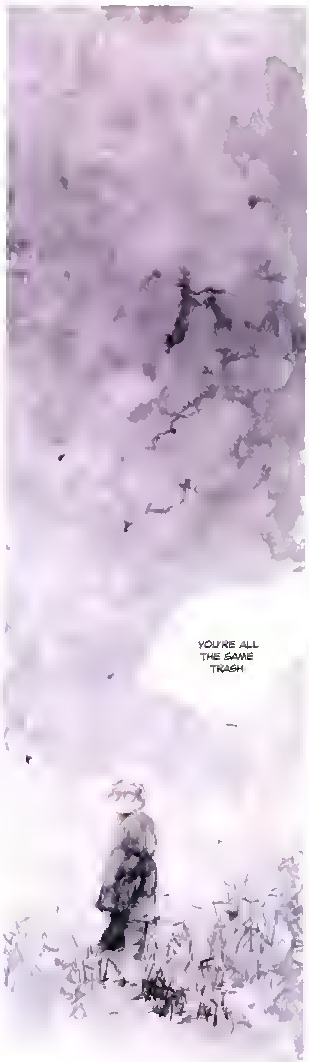
NOT LONG AFTER YOUR TOUR ENDED, SHE LEFT FOR AFRICA. JUST LIKE SOMETHING IN A DREAM.
SHE SOMETIMES SAID THAT SHE WANTED TO GO TO AFRICA...
I DIDN'T KNOW SHE'D REALLY LEAVE
JUST SUDDENLY ONE DAY WITHOUT ANY WORD

...!
M ... MISTER?!
BANG

SEE THAT?!
I WARNED YOU THAT I'D GET YOU FOR THAT.
WH... WHERE DID YOU GET A GUN?
DID YOU THINK I WAS JOKING?!
SHUT UP!

YOU, YOU ... YOU BETRAYED MY LOVE?
MY AFFECTIONS
WHAT DO YOU MEAN BETRAYAL ?
IN THIS DEPRESSION ... EVEN WHILE BEING TREATED CRUELLY BY MY WIFE ...
I SPENT SO MUCH MONEY AND LOVE ON YOU ...
BANG

FKD
I DON'T NEED ANY OF THIS


YOU'RE ALL THE SAME TRASH

Hey, you ...
are you dead?

A long time ago,
Min-ju sent me a postcard
from Africa.

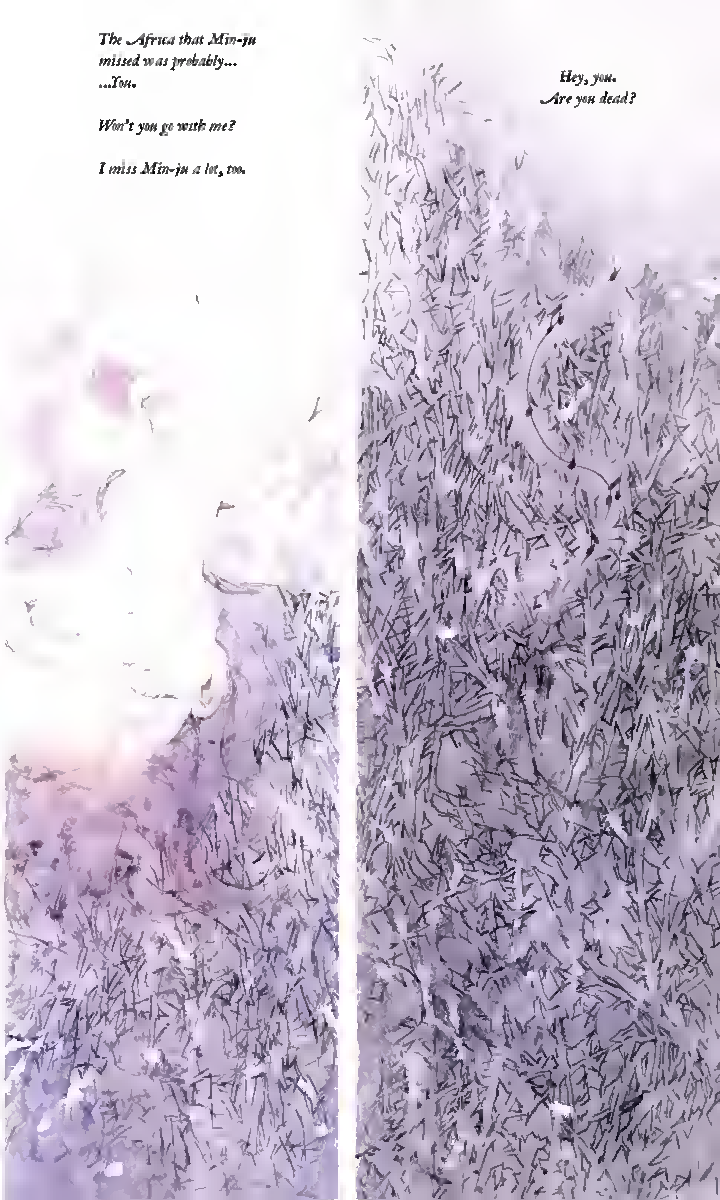
She said that she missed Africa
while she was in Africa.
I didn't know what that meant back
then, but now I think I do.

The Africa that Min-ju missed was probably...
...You.

Won't you go with me?

I miss Min-ju a lot, too.

Hey, you.
Are you dead?



I want to go to AFRICA.

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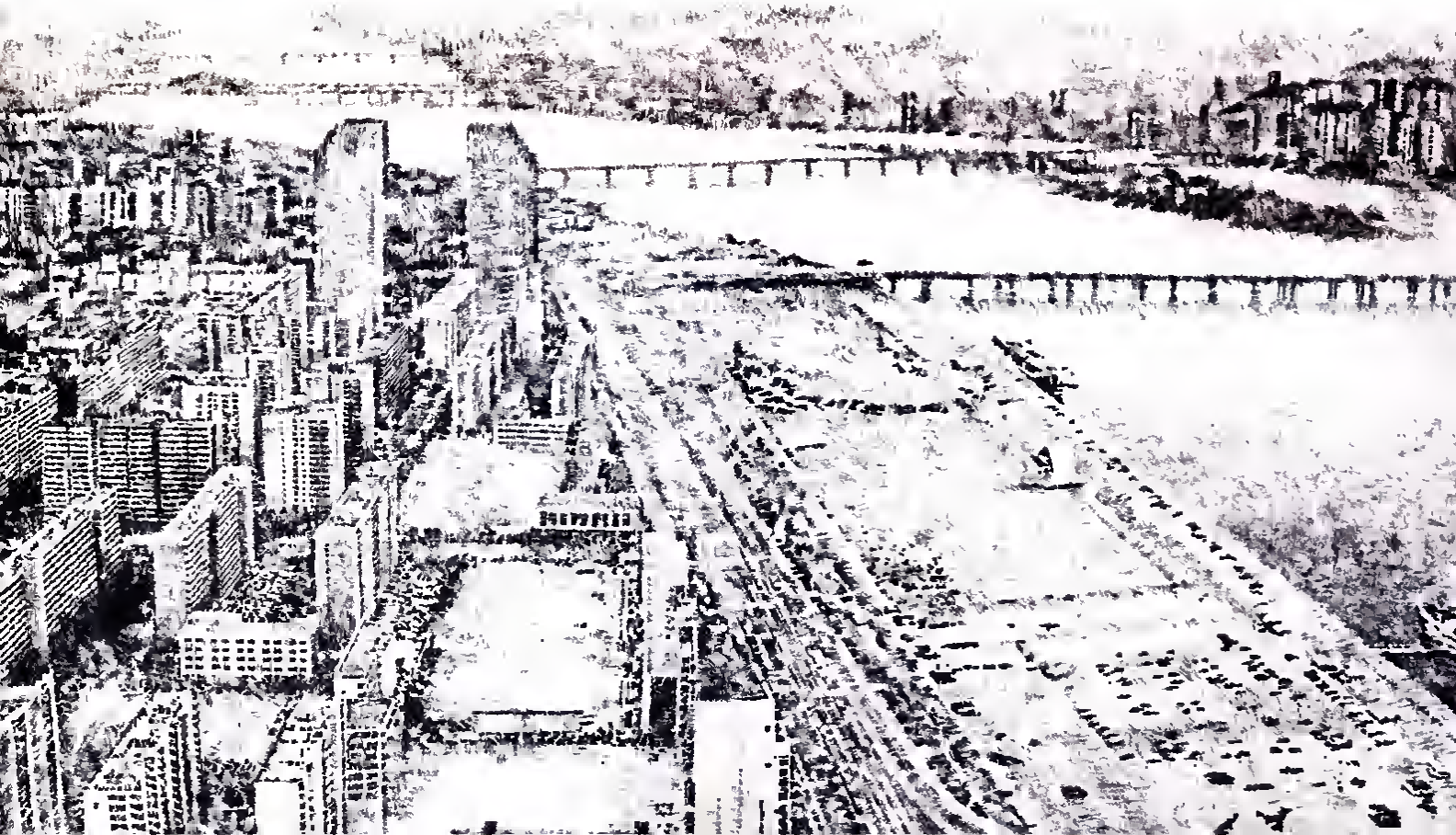


Shinji Apartment

Room No. 202

Winter 2003 Big Comic Spirits Monthly New Manhwaga Award Promotion Award Winner

Um
Slurp
Slurp
Slurp

SO-HEE
SO-HEE

WHAT DO YOU KNOW WHAT TIME IT IS?!
I WAS EATING RAMEN...
IT'S ME
SO SO-HEE...
I THOUGHT OF YOU
click

OH SORRY

FUCK
SO-HEE I LOVE YOU...
AAAAAAAAAA
AAAAAAAA

LAST NIGHT COMEDIAN MS CHO YOUNG JA.
RECEIVED AN UNACCOUNTABLE RUIN ON HER FACE
MS. CHO WHO WAS CALLED THE RISING STAR OF THE COMEDY WORLD.
...WILL HAVE TO DISCONTINUE PERFORMING FOR A WHILE
THAT'S GOOD! I DON'T LIKE HER ANYWAY
NEXT UP INTERNATIONAL NEWS..

HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION TYSON SUFFERED AN UNACCOUNTABLE LOSS OF EYESIGHT
AT THE LOSS OF HIS EYESIGHT, MR. TYSON, WHO HAD SUFFERED ENDLESS LOSSES..
What?
Stare
IT CAN'T BE!

EH? YOU (LEB)+ WELL? I'M SORRY ABOUT LAST NIGHT
WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU? WHY DO YOU KEEP CALLING? YOU KNOW IT'S OVER BETWEEN US
I KNOW
I LOVE YOU
ARE YOU CRAZY?!
I KNOW BUT I STILL MISS YOU

Am I crazy?
Maybe I am.
PHAH
PHAH
Even I'm not sure of my feelings...

stare
stare

NEWS FLASH.
TWO VETERAN NATIONAL ASSEMBLY MEMBERS WHO HAD BEEN RE-ELECTED THREE TIMES
WERE BRUTALLY MURDERED AND FOUND IN DIFFERENT PLACES
BOTH ASSEMBLYMEN WERE KILLED BY A SHARP WEAPON
DAILY TIMES
DAILY TIMES

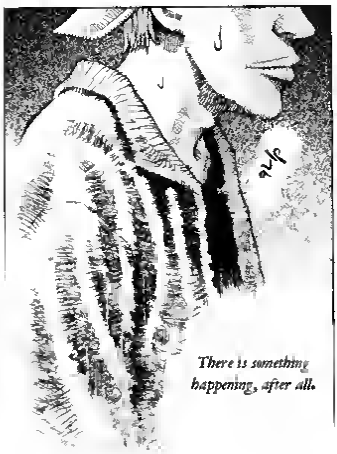
What ... what the hell?!

WHAT'S
HAP-
PENED?
IT'S
ME.
WHY
YOU--!
W-
WAT

WAIT...
DID YOU SEE THE NEWS ABOUT COMEDIAN CHO YOUNG-JA AND TYSON,
AND THE ASSEMBLY MEMBER?
WHAT ABOUT THAT?!
UH, THAT IS SOMEHOW
I THINK I DID IT
IS THIS A JOKE?! I'M HANGING UP!
JUST WAIT
W-WAIT!
I'LL
SHOW YOU EVIDENCE

WATCH THE 9 O'CLOCK NEWS LATER. THEY'LL PROBABLY SAY THAT THE ASSEMBLYMAN KIM HAN-GHIK DIED!
WHATEVER!
dig
tap
tap
tap

Vrrrrrrr
click
ASSEMBLYMAN KIM HAN-SHIK WHO WAS RE-ELECTED FOUR TIMES WAS MURDERED JUST MOMENTS AGO
THE POLICE SUSPECT THAT A GROUP PLOTTING TO OVERTHROW THE GOVERNMENT IS BEHIND THIS CHAIN OF MURDERS.
AND ARE ORGANIZING A SPECIAL INVESTIGATION TEAM
9NEWS

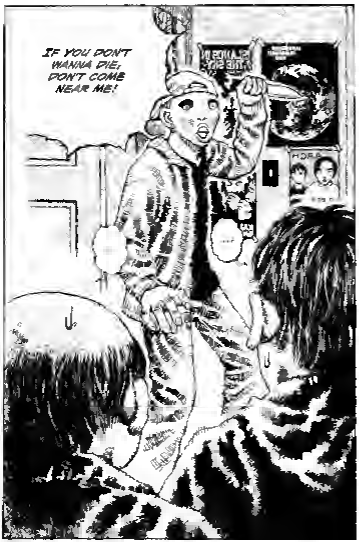

There is something happening, after all.

ding dong
click

DID YOU SEE THE NEWS? DO YOU BELIEVE ME NOW?
WHAT IF I'D YOU IDIOT
ACTUALLY, I'M NOT SURE ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED EITHER...
ANYWAY I THINK I'VE GAINED THIS STRANGE POWER.
IDIOT

YOU CALLED THE POLICE?!
DO... DON'T COME NEAR ME!!
IF YOU DO...

WE ALL DIE!!


IF YOU DON'T WANNA DIE, DON'T COME NEAR ME!

OH CHIEF
HE SEEMS TO HAVE LOST IT

AT SUCH A YOUNG AGE TOO

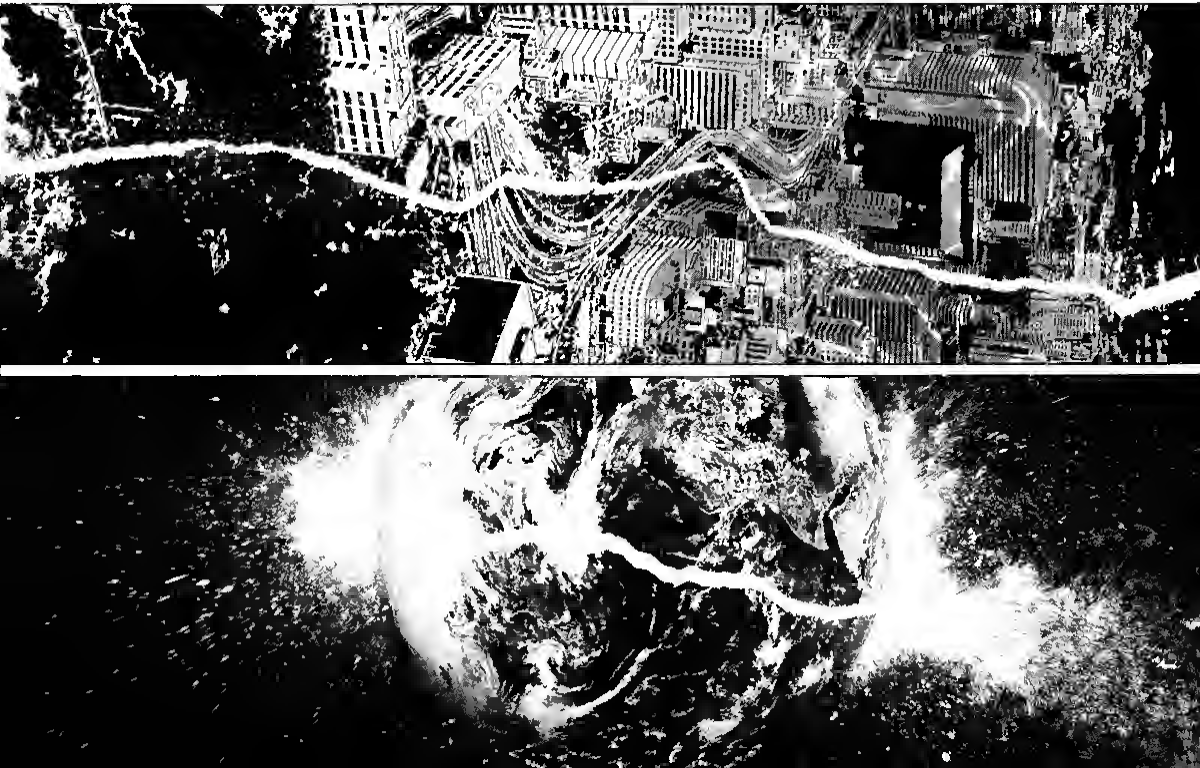
NO ... DON'T COME NEAR ME ...
!
HORA

ARTHUR C. CLARK

SO SO SEE I I

I LOVE? ONLY YOU

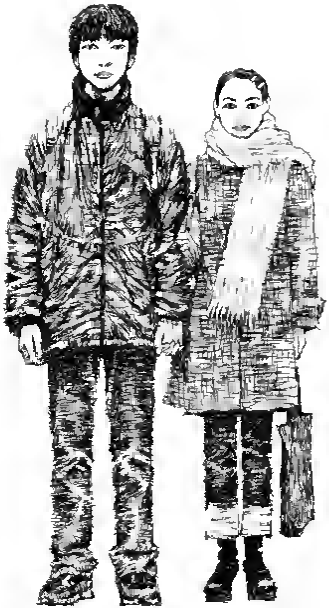
IDIOT



ぷるるるる
ぷるるるる
ぷるるるる
ぷるるるる
ぷるるるる

MR. YUN TOMORROW'S THE DEADLINE AND YOU'RE STILL SLEEPING?!
HELLO?
N NO
I'VE BEEN PULLING ALL-NIGHTERS FOR TWO NIGHTS
YOU KNOW YOUR MANHWA AREN'T GETTING ANY GOOD REACTION RIGHT?
SO I WAS THINKING... I HAVE A GREAT STORYLINE IN MIND
YEP

I'LL HEAR ABOUT THE STORY LATER
FOR NOW THINK ABOUT THE DEADLINE
YEP! IT'S A REALLY GOOD STORYLINE
OK. THE DEADLINE COMES FIRST!
YEP
THIS IS THE MORNING NEWS.
LAST NIGHT COMEDIAN CHO YOUNG-JA...
Ahhhhhhh



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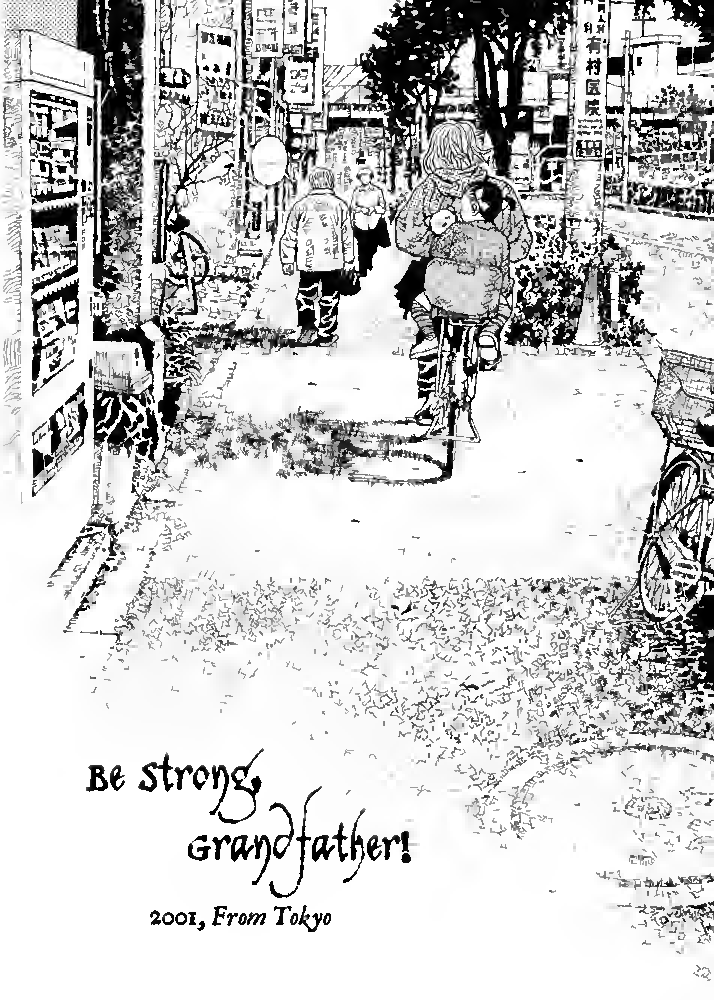
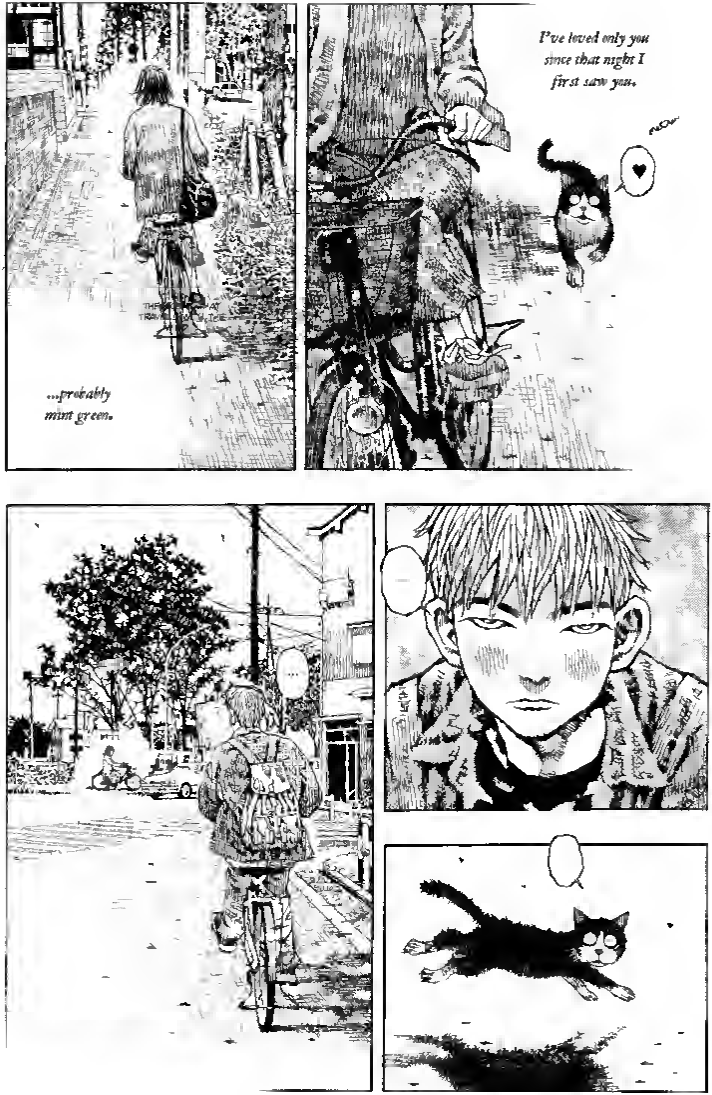


Be Strong, Grandfather!

2001, *From Tokyo*

My love ♥ Taida Hiroki
Measurements 85-60-87 (presumed)
Mister Children,
Radio Head,
Yoshimoto Banana,
Tamada Amy...
Things that probably interest her.

Every day,
she heads to school at
the same time using
the same road.

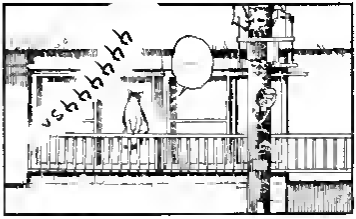

...probably mint green.
I've loved only you since that night I first saw you.
MEOW
...

FLAP
I will protect my love at all costs.
OOH
WHAM
PINK AND FLOWER PRINTED

Serves you right ♬
OOH ♥
SKY BLUE IS IT?
CHOK

YOU'RE LATE

I WON'T BE LATE FROM NOW ON
YEP

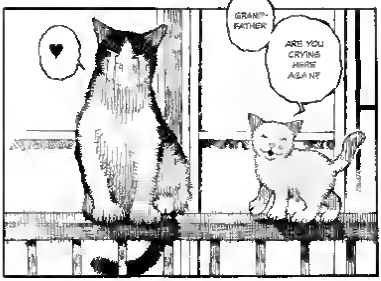

vshhhhh

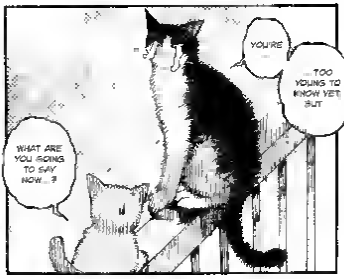
NUMBER 3 PAGE 72.
THANKS

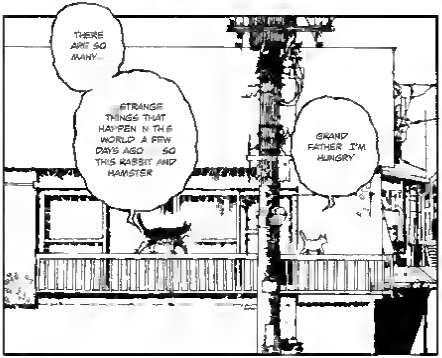
YEP.
BE CAREFUL OF YOUR PRONUN CIATION OF.
...
...
...

LET'S BE STRONG TOGETHER

ALL RIGHT THE NEXT


GRAND-FATHER
ARE YOU CRYING HERE AGAIN?


YOU'RE ...
...TOO YOUNG TO KNOW YET, BUT
WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO SAY NOW...?


THERE ARE SO MANY...
STRANGE THINGS THAT HAPPEN IN THIS WORLD A FEW DAYS AGO ... SO THIS RABBIT AND HAMSTER
GRAND-FATHER I'M HUNGRY

...
MUNCH-MUNCH
MUNCH-MUNCH

ARE YOU DOING ALL RIGHT, KID?
IT'S NOTHING.
YOU'RE ALWAYS LATE FOR SCHOOL AND YOU SPACE OUT IN CLASS
I HAVEN'T GOTTEN USED TO ...
MY NEW PART-TIME JOB YET. I'M JUST A BIT TIRED
DON'T BE TOO HARD ON YOURSELF
THERE'S NOTHING SADDER THAN GETTING SICK AWAY FROM HOME
Is it going to rain?

DRIZZLE
IT'S RAINING HARD
NEXT TIME.
HOW ABOUT A DRINK, KID?

IT'S SUDDENLY RAINING
YOU DON'T HAVE AN UMBRELLA?
...NO.

IF IT'S OK WITH YOU,
WOULD YOU LIKE TO SHARE WITH ME?
HUH?
WHAT DO YOU THINK OF JAPAN?
AT FIRST IT WAS STRANGE
BUT NOW IT'S OK
Away

IT'S SIMILAR TO KOREA. THE STREETS THE PEOPLE
... EVEN THOUGH THE LANGUAGE IS DIFFERENT
ACTUALLY IT HASN'T BEEN LONG SINCE I FIRST CAME TO TOKYO LIKE YOU. CHILL... GOO
THEN YOUR HOMETOWN...
HOKKAIDO
IT'S A PLACE THAT'S VERY COLD IN THE WINTER
OTHER THAN VISITING TOKYO ONCE WHEN I WAS YOUNG IT WAS MY FIRST TIME...
SO EVERYTHING'S STILL STRANGE TO ME
BETTER THAN ME PROBABLY
BUT I'M VERY SHY...
STILL

DO YOU MISS ANYONE AT HOME OWL SOO?
OF COURSE MY PARENTS MY FRIENDS, AND...
SHARON
SHARON? YOUR GIRL FRIEND?
NO
SHARON WAS MY CAT ♥
OF COURSE
I HAVE SOMEONE I MISS EVERY DAY
...
DO YOU MISS ANYONE AT HOME TEACHER?
...

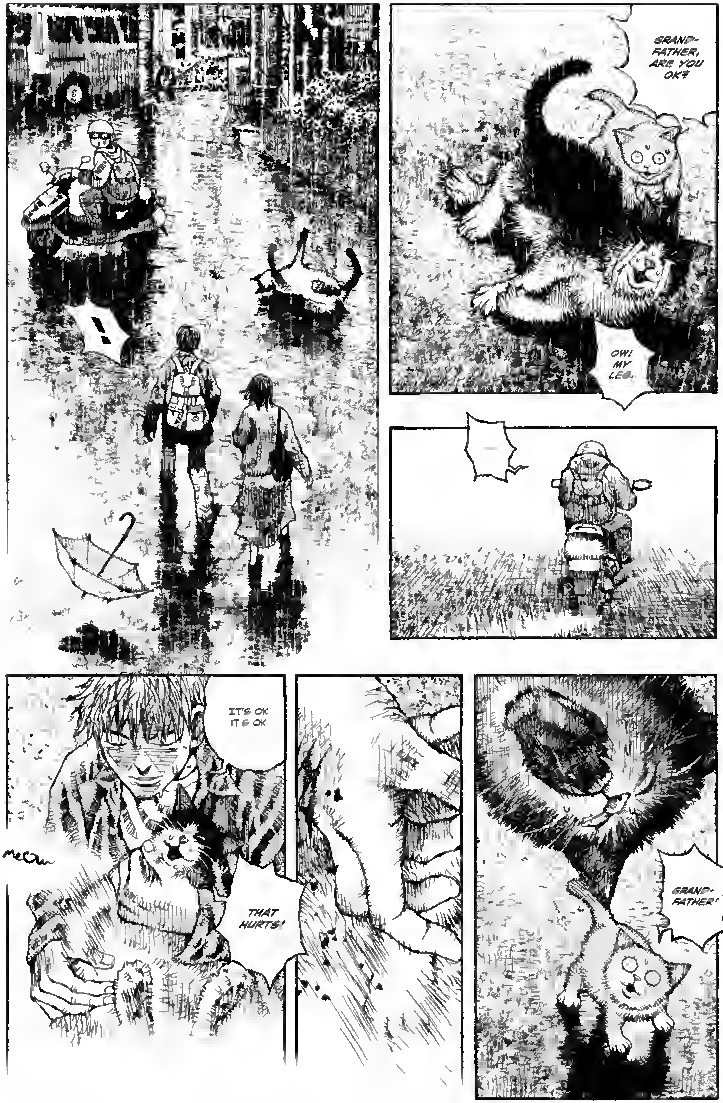
Why is he with Haruka?!♥

GRANDFATHER, YOU'RE GOING SOMEWHERE?
I can't let this happen!

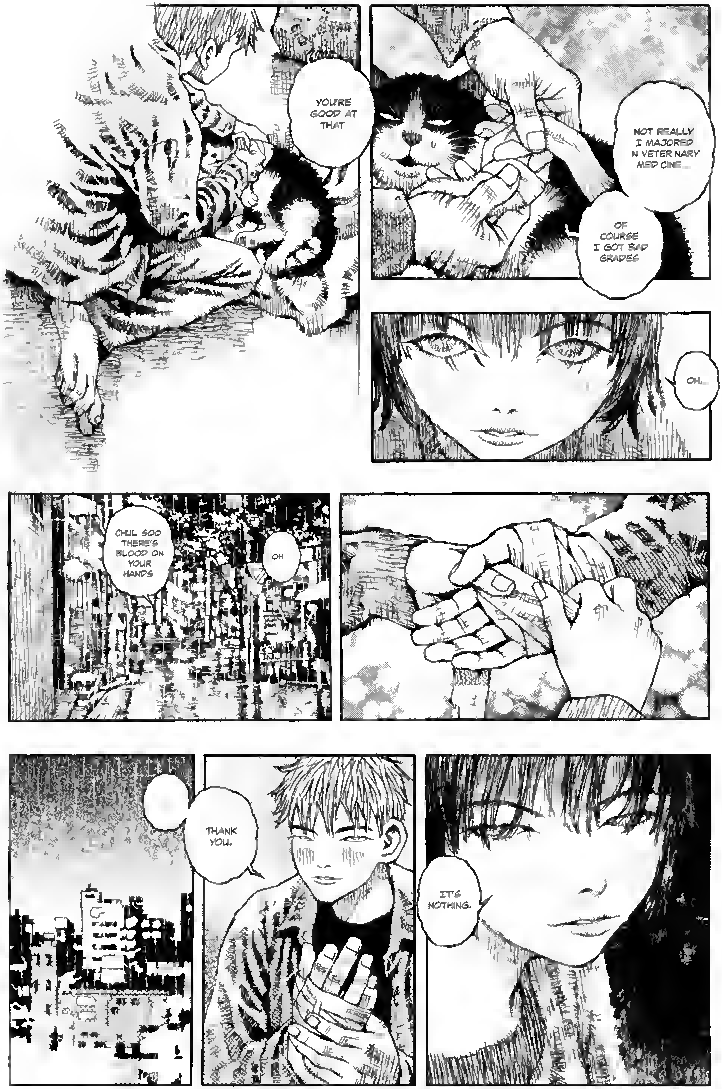
What's that?! That idiotic look!

HM?

!


!
GRAND-FATHER, ARE YOU OK?
OW! MY LEG.
IT'S OK IT'S OK
THAT HURTS!
GRAND-FATHER!

Mew
DON'T BE AFRAID IT'S OK
UM... I HAVE MILK AT HOME...
MEOW


YOU'RE GOOD AT THAT
NOT REALLY I MAJORED IN VETERINARY MEDICINE...
OF COURSE I GOT BAD GRADES
OH...
OHH, SOO THERE'S BLOOD ON YOUR HANDS
OH
THANK YOU.
IT'S NOTHING.

GRAMP FATHER
ARE YOU OK?
DON'T WORRY I M F NE
HMPH THE FELLA HAS GOOD SKILLS
I KNOW HIM..
WHA WHAT'S THAT SMELL?
EVERY MORNING...
HE RUNS BEHIND YOUR BICYCLE
...AND DURING CLASS HE WALKS ALONG THE WINDOWS LL...
I THINK HE LIKES YOU, TEACHER
IT CAN'T BE
LOOK, HERE KILLI SHINE

HE'S JUST PUTTING UP AN ACT. HE'S NOT HURT TOO BAD
IF YOU JUST CHANGE HIS BANDAGES ONCE IN A WHILE...
HE'LL...
...RECOVER SOON.
BE STRONG
WELL...
THEN I GUESS I'LL BE GOING...
I'LL TRUST YOU TO TAKE CARE OF HIM
UM, UM
WAIT

YES...?
I HAVE TO TELL YOU SOMETHING CHIL-SOO
ㅎㅎㅎㅎㅎ
HIROKO

BAM
BAM

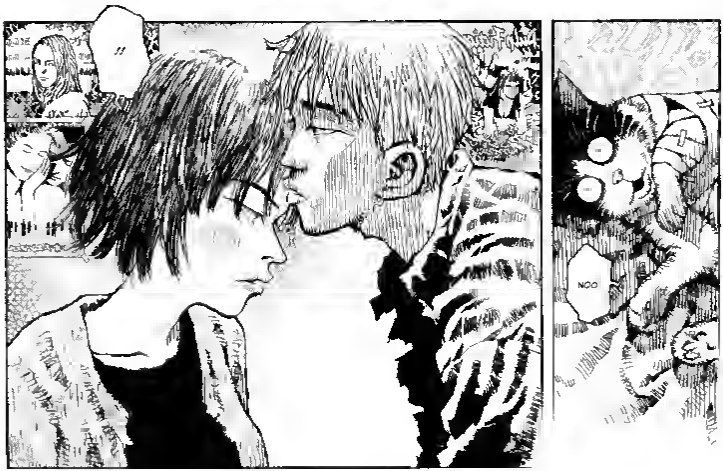
You saved me ... and, somehow, I ended up running away just then...
ARE YOU SER OUS?!

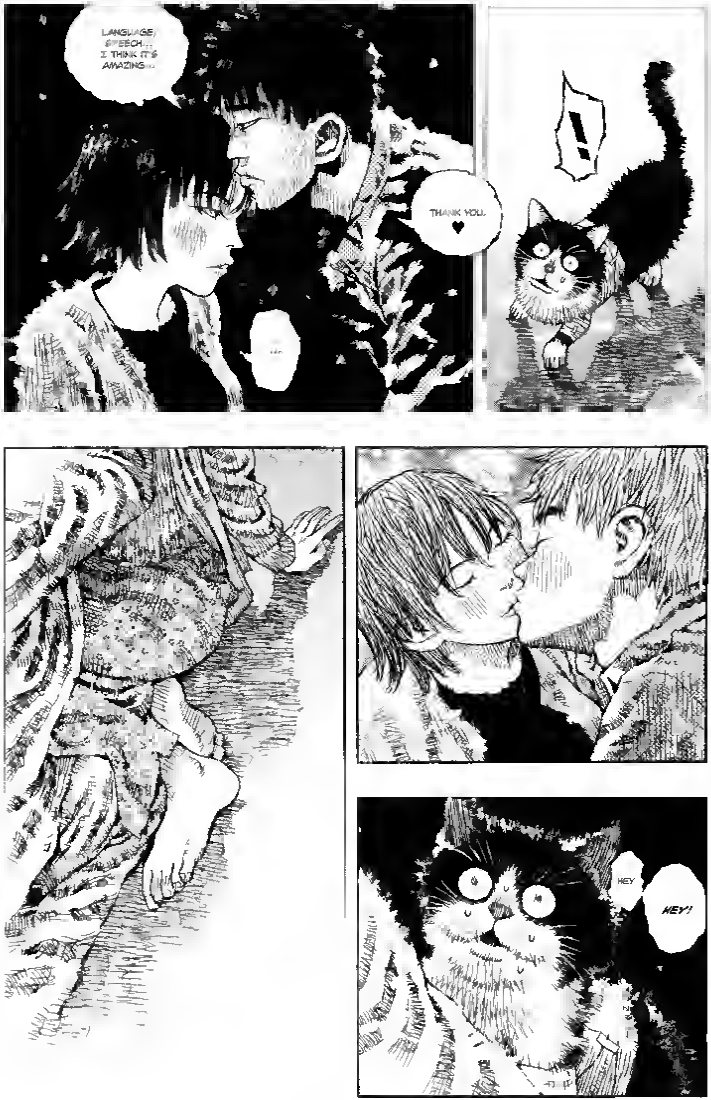
THIS IS THE DOLL THAT YOU DROPPED THAT DAY CHIL SOO
MY FRIENDS GAVE ME THIS AT THE AIRPORT WHEN I WAS LEAVING TO GO TO JAPAN
IT WAS THE DEPARTMENT MASCOT BUT...
YOUR HAIR...
I ARRIVED IN TOKYO LATE AT NIGHT...
I GOT LOST...
AND YOU SAVED ME CHIL SOO
I CUT IT THE NEXT DAY
THAT DAY

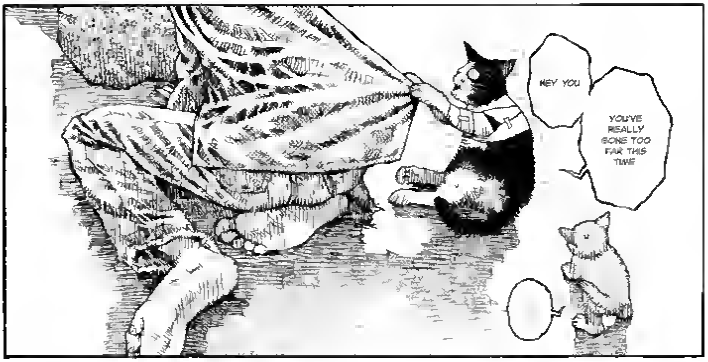
click
I was so surprised to see you on the first day of class in April.
THANK YOU
EVERY DAY, I SAID THAT TO THIS DOLL
THANK YOU

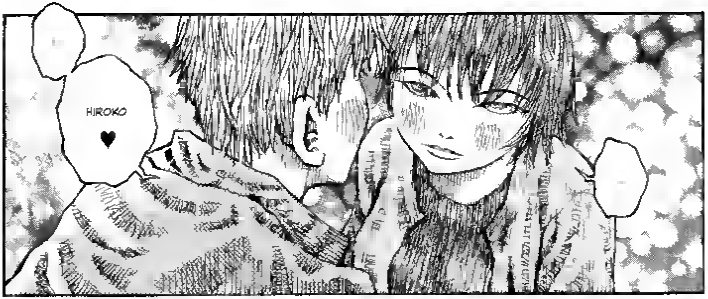
*Hiroko says "Thank you" in Korean instead of Japanese

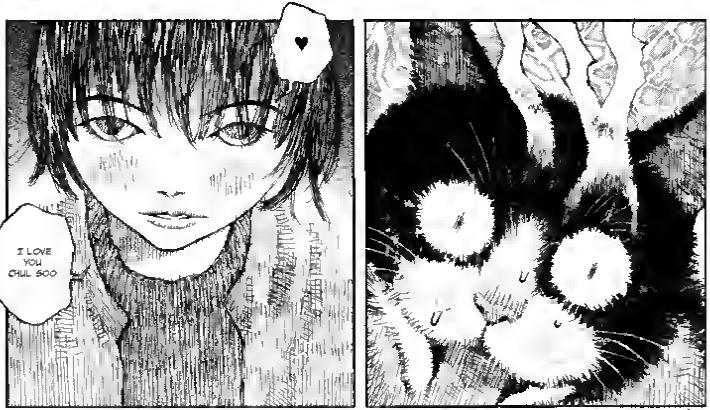
I WANTED TO...
...THANK YOU IN KOREAN... THAT I... EVERY DAY.
I THOUGHT OR...


...
NOO


LANGUAGE, SPEECH... I THINK IT'S AMAZING...
...
THANK YOU. ♥
HEY
HEY!


HEY YOU
YOU'VE REALLY GONE TOO FAR THIS TIME


HIROKO


I LOVE YOU CHUL SOO

GRAND-FATHER!
GRAND-FATHER,
WAKE UP!
That was the end of my love!
DON'T CRY GRANDFATHER
YOU HAVE ME GRAND FATHER
ううううう

undecided

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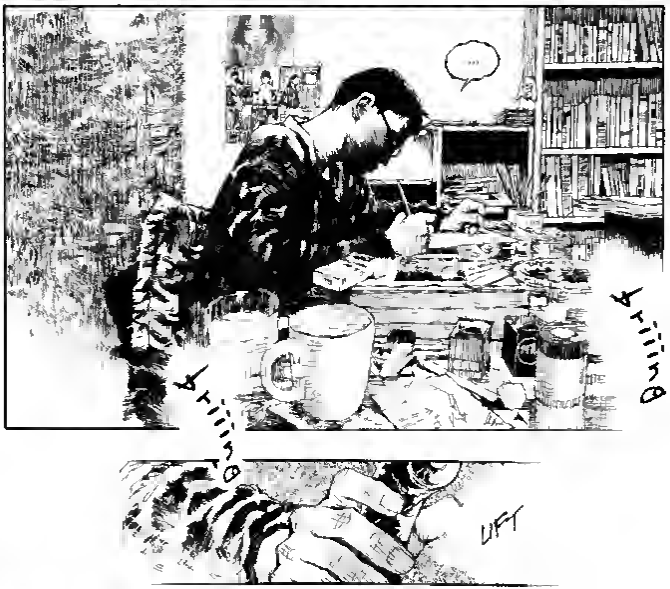
The Story of My Boyfriend

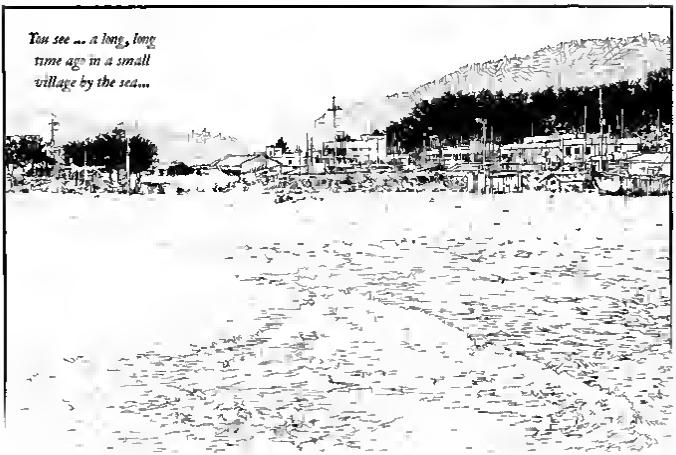
Based on Seung-chun Tang

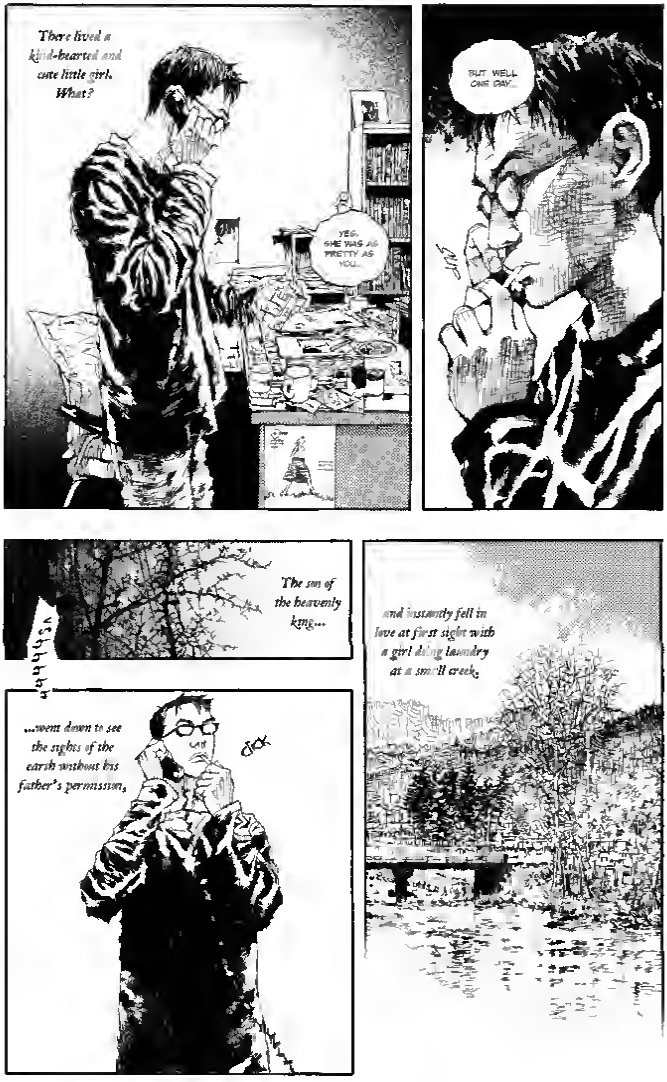

...
DRRRRR
DRRRRR
UFF

HELLO?
OH YOU'RE ST..LL AWAKE??
YEAH TOMORROW'S THE DEAD-L-NE
HUH? I..M OK. I TOOK A NAP
HMM?

JUST A MOMENT...
SIGH
YEAH, WELL, IT'S LIKE THAT
I'M GOING TO BUY SOME CIGARETTES
YOU'RE RIGHT
IT'S KINDA COLD BECAUSE OF THE RAIN
SHHHHHHH
I LOVE YOU TOO ♥
SHHHHHHHH
HUH? A FUN STORY?
A STORY THAT WILL PUT YOU TO SLEEP?

WHAT KIND OF STORY IS FUN BUT ALSO MAKES YOU SLEEPY?
WHAT?
I CAN'T AND THE ONE I'M WORKING ON NOW IS BORING
vshhhh
YEAH, MY FRIEND HSIUNG-CHAN TOLD ME THIS STORY...
YEAH. THAT FRIEND.
HEY
IS IT OK IF IT'S NOT FUNNY?


You see ... a long, long time ago in a small village by the sea...


There lived a kind-hearted and cute little girl. What?
YES. SHE WAS AS PRETTY AS YOU.
BUT WELL, ONE DAY...
The son of the heavenly king...
and instantly fell in love at first sight with a girl doing laundry at a small creek.
...went down to see the sights of the earth without his father's permission.
CRY

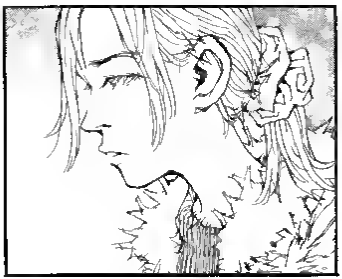
He could feel himself blush fervently even when he was just staring at her while hiding in a tree, and his heart would beat so hard that he would always be so dizzy.

Every day, the son of the heavenly king would only hide and steal glances at her. But he wanted to talk to her...
vchhh

He passed the time away at that small creek.

He wanted to say hello to her...

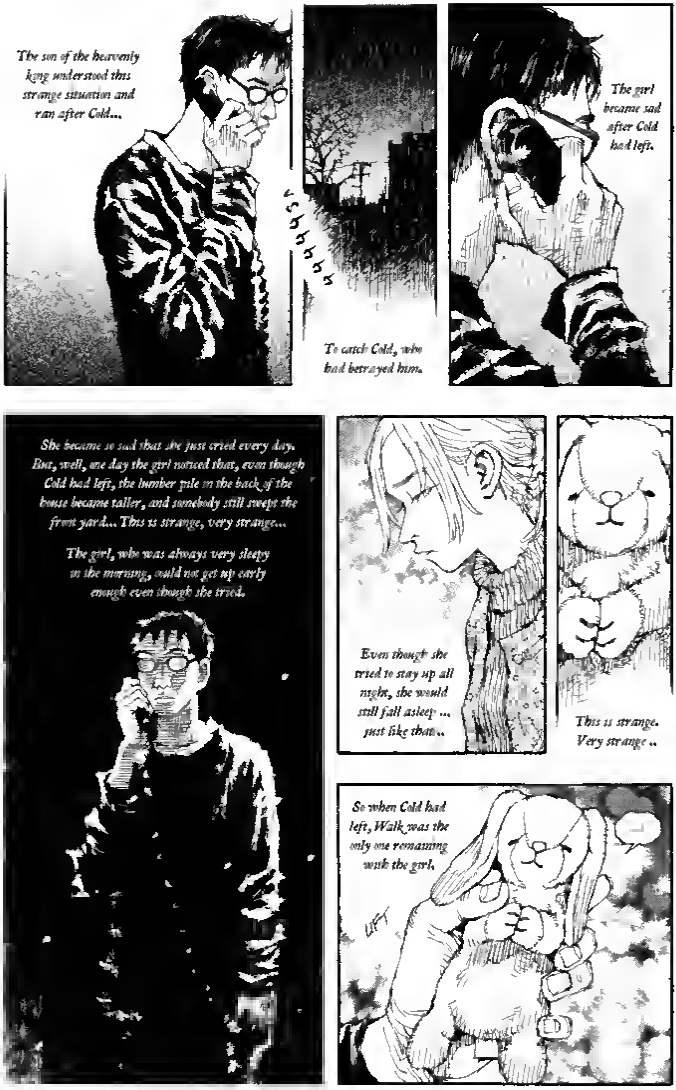
...but he was so shy that he could only watch her from afar.



So, after yearning with his entire heart for days, he called upon Walk and Cold, who played every day, and told them his agonies. He said with pitiful eyes,
Help me!
Cold and Walk, who were always tumbling around in the warm country of heaven, saw that they had to go down to the cold earth and grumbled...
THAT HIS LOVE WOULD NEVER BE SATISFIED!
But still, because of the son of the heavenly king's pitiful eyes,
Walk and Cold went down to cold earth and immediately fell in love with the girl.
They forgot the request of the son of the heavenly king and fell in love in an instant. Poof!

Every morning, for the girl...
vshhhhhhh
...Walk secretly swept the yard and fixed the fences ... and he brought back lumber from the mountains and piled them behind the girl's house.
But Cold, who was sly compared to Walk,
came to the creek at the time the girl did and did her laundry for her, and cunningly said that the lumber pile and the cleaning were his own doing.
Time went by unnoticed, and the girl started believing that the yard sweeping and the lumber pile were the doings of Cold, not Walk.
The girl had started to like Cold.

Walk, who did not know this, continued to work hard at his sweeping and lumbering.
The son of the heavenly king, who had waited and waited for them to contact him, finally decided to investigate ..
...and he went down to earth, where the girl was.
In that time, the girl had become more mature and her face was paler and her lips were redder.
kee
The son of the heavenly king momentarily forgot about his princely status and resolved to say "I like you" to the girl. But...
kee
The girl's eyes wavered at the timely appearance of Cold.
Ba-dump! Seeing that the son of the heavenly king had suddenly come, Cold ran away out of fear.


The son of the heavenly king understood this strange situation and ran after Cold...
vshhhhh
To catch Cold, who had betrayed him.
The girl became sad after Cold had left.
She became so sad that she just cried every day. But, well, one day the girl noticed that, even though Cold had left, the lumber pile in the back of the house became taller, and somebody still swept the front yard... This is strange, very strange...
The girl, who was always very sleepy in the morning, could not get up early enough even though she tried.
Even though she tried to stay up all night, she would still fall asleep ... just like that...
This is strange. Very strange ..
So when Cold had left, Walk was the only one remaining with the girl.
LEFT

That it is Walk who is next to the pretty girl, not Cold.

Cold may be
running away
there tonight.

Although it's been a long time since I've started drawing manhwa,

sometimes I think that I'm at the same spot, unable to take a step further.

And my worries are only getting bigger.

My second short story series 'Undecided

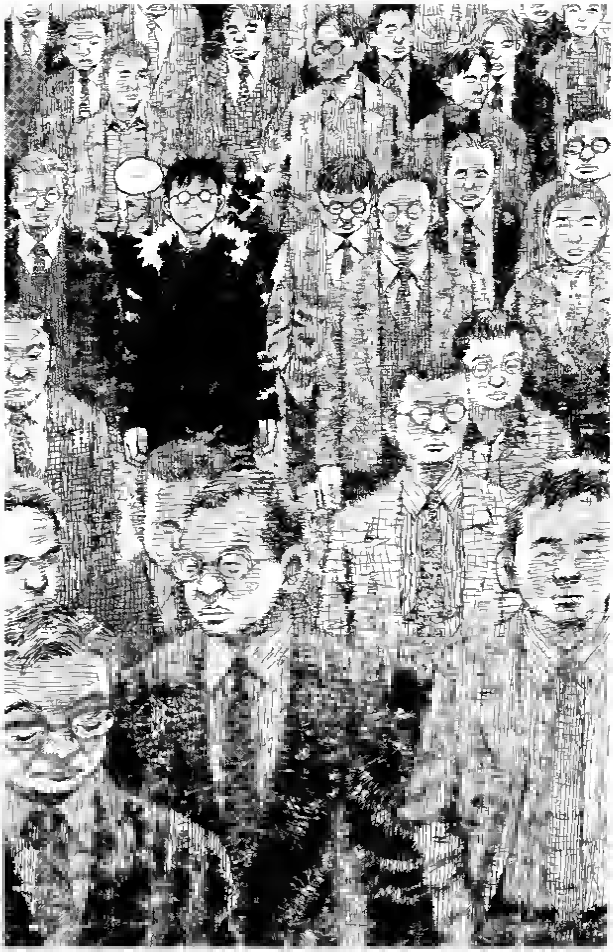
Is a portrait of myself,

walking about at a dead end, not knowing what to do.

I express my thanks to everyone at the Seoul Animation Center

and the members of Finding the Way,

who have helped my lacking manhwa by funding its production.



Undecided - A Feast of Illustrated Stories, Pyun Byung-Joon Style

by Kim Nak-Ho

Writing a review which is to be included at the conclusion/end of a collection of short stories is quite an awkward task. The riskiness of an 'official' criticism is a given, and particularly with a collection of short stories, usually each individual story is completely different, which therefore makes it difficult to review the collection as a single entity. What is also awkward is to write a lengthy, tedious article, thereby reducing the readers' enjoyment by half, so reviewers are often at a loss as to what to do. However, if the objective is to get a hint of the possibilities of the creativity of an author, and the direction in which he's going, it becomes a different story. If collections of short stories were represented as music disks, the majority of them would be like a B-side compilation – through the cracks of the whirlpool which is the author's increasingly bigger projects in motion, many various glimpses of moments at that instant can freely be seen. Thus, in a more direct way, reviews are the points which enable readers to connect with the raw thought process.

The Pyun Byung-Joon after Princess Anna, which was a highly praised work, is an author who predominantly draws cities. Although it seems that it is a simple story with a city as a background, the story does not develop the usual image associated with 'city' – cool and sophisticated. This is because it is the circumstances and moods of the people who must live in this space called 'city' which dominate the work. When we think of the essence of manhwa as "pictures that talk", the city-space which Pyun Byung-Joon depicts seems to tell a story in itself.

The familiar form of the city preserves its actual shape while concurrently metamorphosing into a space full of emotions. Various emotions are hinted at – emotions which are at times exceedingly lonely and cold, and at other times a cultivate a new, hopeful je ne sais pas in the space. Within a space which is already developing a story, people who harbour a hurt, who are trying to overcome it, or those who do not have anything, and are living a silent life – are living.

It is possibly also because the author has mainly worked in short stories, but the protagonist of Pyun Byung-Joon's manhwas are usually not of a present, progressive form, but rather, a reflection of the past. After first depicting their current everyday life, which has faded into the background, a vague sense of the characters' past is hinted at. Within these spaces, dramatic events do not give birth to new results. Instead they serve to function as a way of concluding something which has continued until now. Through the density of expressive illustrations which are the author's trademark, readers experience not an easy rapport with the character, but are thrown into the space within the work. Inside a style of drawing which induces observation over introduction, a drama unfolds – at times like a passing joke, at times as if the retelling of someone's story is being heard.

The series of short stories of the early 21st century in which the author has attempted to diversify his style of drawing has ties to this collection of short stories, Undecided. If his first collection of short stories, First Love, was a collection of many interests such as mature comedy material, the coldness of a city, and the warmth of the country, this collection is an attempt at various styles of drawing under the one big concept of 'city-space'. There are two main strands in the stories: the story of a man who cannot find something and is whiling away his days one by one, and the story of children who have been hurt. Of these, the former is heavily imbued with traces of the author's emotions and life, and is the more attractive for this.

The first story which opens the collection is also the title of the collection, Undecided. The movie Wings of Desire quietly handled the story of the coldness of a city, and in which the main characters go looking for something. The motifs of this movie are inferred similarly in the manhwa, in very typical Pyun Byung-Joon style. This work has become the starting point for two groups: a reflective description of feelings, and hurting city people. As a work which has been published in the Spring 2003 issue of "Gyegan manhwa", the anecdote about writing the manuscript even while visiting the French Angoulême Manhwa Festival as a guest author in January of the same year is also amusing.

The second work, Yeondu, Seventeen, is a work which shows that manipulation of the 'hurt girl' motif, first seen in Princess Anna, has reached a complete stage of its own. Authored for publication in Japan, it was completed in the summer of 2003. It skilfully organises the tragic thoughts of the city people, and concludes with a new hope.

The work which appears after this is Utility, the joint project with Yoon In-Wan, who has star status as an author of stories for Korean boys' manhwas. Although the story was not as interesting as anticipated, the black comedy which stemmed from the dysphemistic expressions of children and the bleak world they live in tell of a different developmental direction. This was published in the special issue of April 2002 in Japan's "Bigcomic Spirits".

The work which attempted a blurred monotone coloring, Your Song, was made in the autumn of 2003, and is the most recent work yet. Its strengths are the kinder characters and an improved depiction of space. Shinil Apartment Room No. 202 is comedy material which has surfaced after a long break, and is testament to the fact that his skill in that field has not rusted. It is a work which was illustrated in the spring of 2000, while in Japan for study, and is a merry comedy which shows what happens when a life of purpose merges with an author's daydreams. It was awarded the encouragement award at the primary level Bigcomic Spirits New Works section and was published in the December 2001 issue of "Bigcomic Spirits".

This comedic mood has a natural progression to the cat comedy of Be Strong, Grandfather!, a work drawn in the autumn of 2001. In this work, however, a pretty, young girl who is also a schoolteacher, instead of a daydream, appears as the main character, using an intrinsic melodramatic element. The final work is The Story of My Boyfriend, which Yang Seung-Cheon wrote the words for. As a short story which tells lame jokes with a straight face, it unfolds by way of deliveries through telephone conversations, instead of the easier scenarios where, through the representation of the situation of the personified characters, the readers are put into the joke. This focuses on the relationship between the participants of the conversation and their sensitivities, instead of the story itself. Due to this, the protagonist of the story remains a manhwaga in a small room, i.e. the author's persona. In this way, the first imagined self-portrait, and the final, real self-portrait form a double crown of a beginning and an end and border the collection's many stories.

As much as this collection of short stories shows the development of Pyun Byung-Joon the author, it also reveals the weaknesses which are still improving. Matters such as the lack of dramatic fun in stories, and the similar partition positioning ever since Princess Anna, must still be resolved. However, overcoming these things in a Pyun Byung-Joon manner, and the development of it in a deeper direction can clearly be seen. This is the feast of varied stories the author Pyun Byung-Joon is able to display in the early years of the 21st century. In addition, it can be intuitively perceived that the birth of a single work with all his trademarks: sophisticated detailing of sensitivities, hurting children, warm humour and a black comedy of an embarrassing situation, and others, won't be long in the making.

A couple of years ago, a friend once called Pyun Byung-Joon "Park Heung-Tong's Heir". This was because the city scenes and the people who melted into the city scenes, seen in First Love and Princess Anna, were seen as overlapping with the short stories Park Heung-Tong published in the 80s. Coincidentally, the collection of short stories Park Heung-Tong published was titled Blank Paper, and Pyun Byung-Joon's title for this collection of his stories is 'Undecided. It is a title which has been designed so it could be either a vacancy made by an author's pledge to a new beginning, or at the same time, possibly be the name of an admired woman'. If that is the case, how the next work is going to develop in the midst of this, and what the title of the next work is, is a point of curiosity.

'Mi-Gyeong, which is the Korean word for 'undecided', can also be a girl's name. However, it is likely that the Chinese characters for the name will be different than the ones for 'mi-gyeong'.